Thursday, October 16, 2025 No 286 ₹7

www.deccanherald.com Follow us on @deccanherald

DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Padikkal misses ton but K'taka stay ahead

Nair, Smaran also score 50s in Ranji opener against Saurashtra

Page 17

Sports

India set to host 2030 CWG, Ahmedabad to be host city

P.17

Nation

Zubeen case: Protesters hurl stones at vehicles carrying accused

P.11

State

Foresters rescue 3 tiger cubs P.4

World

End Ukraine war, US warns Russia P.14

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
And
5 BENGALURU CITY CORPORATIONS

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and
Minister for Bengaluru City Development

A Precious Gift to the Citizens of Bengaluru for this Deepavali

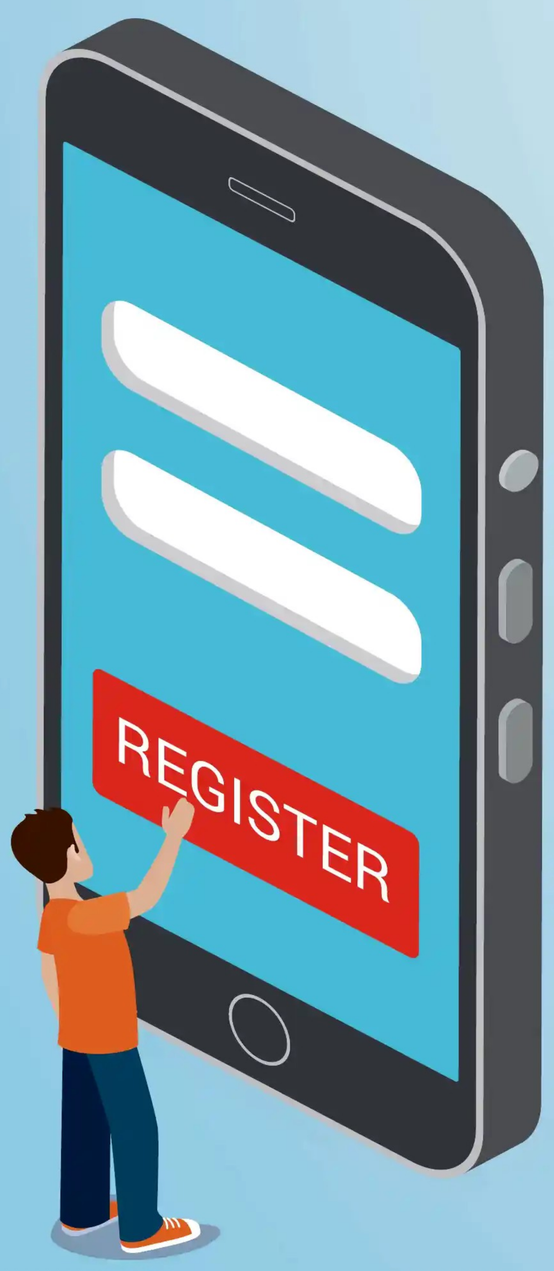
Historic Decision by Government of Karnataka

B-Khata to A-Khata Conversion & New Sites also get A-Khata

How to apply for B-Khata to A-Khata Conversion & A-Khata for New Sites

Up to 2000 sqm

- Login using your Mobile & OTP @https://bbmp.karnataka.gov.in/BtoAKhata
- Enter EPID of your FINAL B-Khata & Fetch
- Aadhaar Authentication of Owners
- Confirm site Location, type of road in front of site
- Both converted & unconverted sites eligible (Flats not eligible)
- Print acknowledgement
- Site visit by city corporations & confirmation
- Pay "Single Plot" approval fee @5% of guidance value of site & other charges
- Automatic Single Plot approval & A-Khata is issued as per eligibility



More than 2000 sqm

- Contact Registered Architect or Engineer
- Apply online @https://bpas.bbmpgov.in for any type of plot
- Upload required documents and CAD drawing
- Pay Initial Scrutiny Fee of Rs. 500
- Submit application online (Flats not eligible)
- Site inspection by visit
- Approval as per eligibility
- Payment of Applicable Fees
- Single Plot Approval Certificate and Drawing issued & A-Khata is issued as per eligibility

Handcrafted lamps shine bright

The traditional craft of clay lamp making is seeing a revival, drawing young talent back to the wheel, writes **Divyashri Mudakavi**

Long before the glitter of modern lights took over Deepavali celebrations, the festivities in the state were dominated by earthen lamps. Each molded by hand, these clay lamps reflect a blend of art and livelihood. Today, from Kalaburagi to Belagavi and Mysuru, many potters keep this eco-friendly tradition alive amid competition from factory-made lights.

One such treasure lies in Melkunda K village in Kalaburagi district, where generations of potters continue the craft. The village has around 50 houses of the Kumbar (potter) community and every family begins their day by offering prayers to the clay, revered as Goddess Laxmi.

Melkunda's earthen lamps are shaped by hand using simple tools and local clay. During the festival season, each family prepares around 60,000 lamps in a month. Wholesale dealers in Yadgir, Raichur, Kalaburagi in Karnataka and in Maharashtra's Solapur buy the lamps at a price of Re 1 per piece.

"The demand for lamps has been consistent over the last few years, but sourcing clay has become a growing concern. We buy clay locally and the price of quality clay is shooting up. If this continues, we may not be able to sell a lamp at Re 1," shares Pradeep, a young potter from the village.

> "The earthern lamps from Belagavi's Khanapur region are sturdy and eco-friendly. Many youths from villages in this region have set up studios in Belagavi where we can find designer lamps. Some potters also customise the designs"
>
> **SANTOSH DHARNATTI**
> A professor from Belagavi

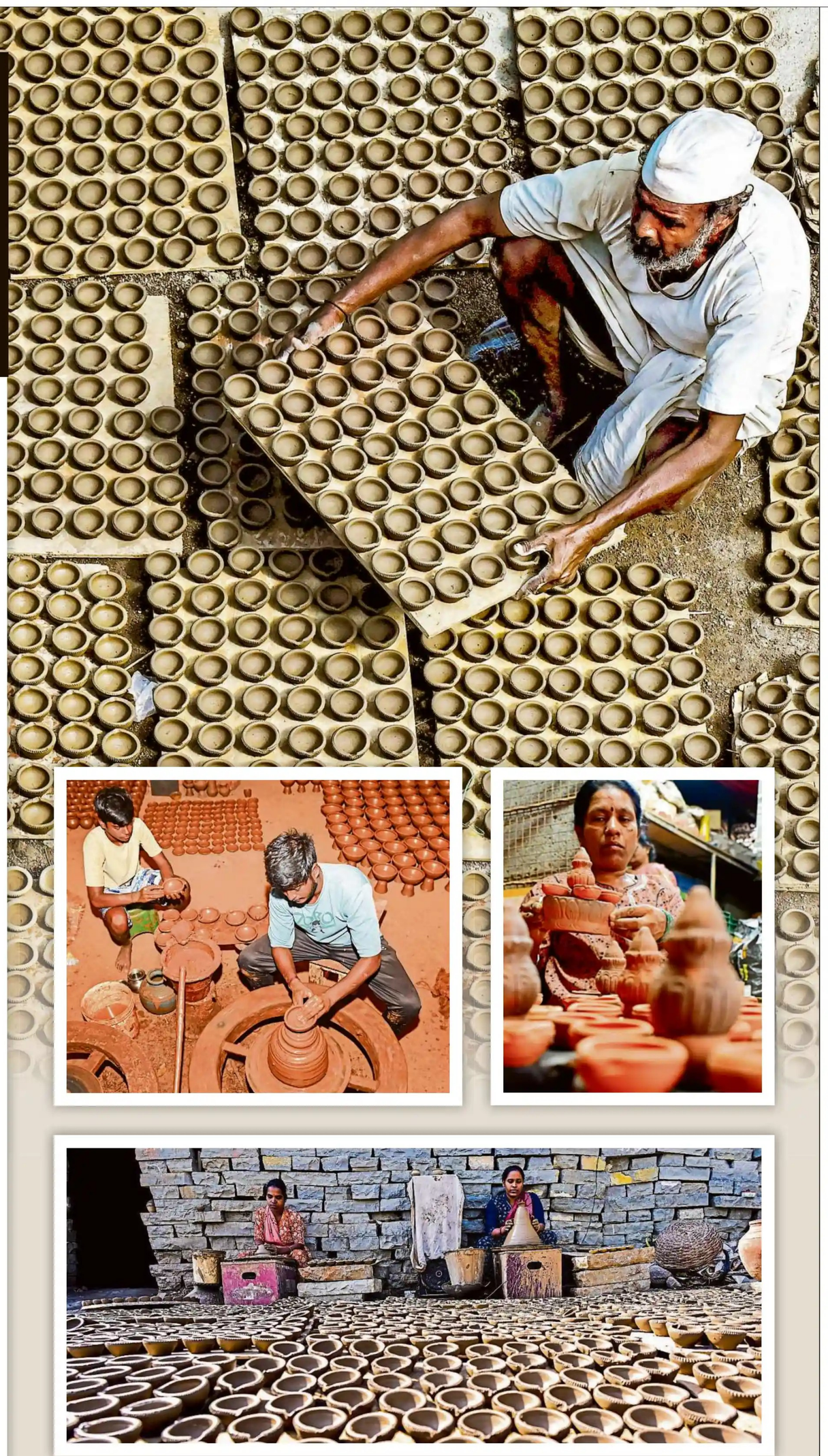
In Singankoppa near Belagavi's Khanapur, the potters experiment with varied designs to cater to changing consumer tastes. "Many people feel that the demand for clay diyas is dwindling, but that is not the case for the potters of Khanapur. Customers want a variety of lamps, and we are just doing that. During off-season months, we shift to making earthen cooking pots, which are increasingly popular," explains potter Krishna Kumbar. His son, who holds a BSc degree, has chosen to continue the family craft.

Among their innovations, the Khanapur potters have created lamps that can glow for up to 24 hours. They also make intricately shaped lamps with the designs of spiritual-and nature-inspired motifs. These products cater to markets in North Karnataka and even neighbouring states.

In Mysuru's Doora village, home to about 15 potter families, the younger generation is helping keep the craft alive. Women and children help make diyas during Deepavali to meet the seasonal demand.

"Until a couple of years ago, Doora would send around three lakh lamps to Tamil Nadu. But now, we make only 30,000 as the clay diya-making industry has picked up in the neighbouring state. Yet, we are committed to preserving our lamp-making tradition and passing it on to our children," said potter Devu Shetty.

Through their unique designs, shaped by local environments and traditions, these pottery villages do more than make goods—they preserve Karnataka's cultural legacy sustainably.



Several places across Karnataka are keeping cultural traditions alive through clay lamps. In pics, different stages of clay lamp making at Kalaburagi's Melkunda (K), Mysuru's Doora and Bengaluru's pottery town.
PHOTOS BY TAZUDDIN AZAD, ANUP RAGH T & B K JANARDHAN

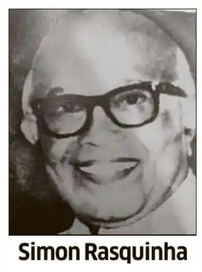
The creative odyssey of Simon Rasquinha

MICHAEL PATRAO

In Mangaluru's cultural and fine arts circle, Simon Rasquinha (1910-1987) evokes respect and admiration. As a theatre artiste, stage designer, playwright, sculptor and poet, his legacy is lasting.

Born in 1910 in a village near Mangaluru, Simon's formal education was cut short when he dropped out of school. At the age of 12, he joined a statue workshop, beginning with humble tasks connected to the making of statues. This early exposure offered him invaluable hands-on experience, allowing him to closely observe the painstaking processes of form, proportion and finish.

For nine years, he worked in the statue-making workshop, primarily painting statues, before moving on to learn clay and wood modelling. He received his formal training from celebrated artist Francis D'Gama, mastering the art of creating sacred images and statues. Alongside, he also honed the skills in drawing, portraiture, and painting elaborate stage backdrops.



Simon Rasquinha

In 1932, at just 22, Simon established his own firm. He soon earned wide recognition for producing a range of church fittings and devotional art.

He worked with diverse media, including terracotta, where he introduced several innovations. His paintings on the life of Christ, many executed in the tempera technique, bore his distinctive touch and experimentation flair.

Among his notable works is the altar painting of St Francis of Assisi and companions, which once adorned the old Capuchin Friary and now displayed in the gallery wall of the new chapel inaugurated in 2015. His statue of Mahatma Gandhi remains a major attraction at the Aloyseum, the museum of St Aloysius College.

Theatre and stagecraft

Simon Rasquinha's talent was not confined to sculpture. He was equally influential in theatre, having directed and acted in nearly 50 plays in Konkani, Kannada and Tulu between the 1920s and 1960s. His versatility allowed him to portray characters ranging from Judas Iscariot to comic roles, while his training as an artist enabled him to create evocative stage sets, backdrops and props. His deep sense of colour, costume and stage composition gave his productions a visual richness that elevated their dramatic impact.

He was one of the four founding members of the Konkani Natak Sabha that has been staging plays at the iconic Don Bosco Hall in central Mangaluru since its inception.

Rasquinha also left his mark on Konkani music and literature. Together with Denis Patrao, he composed more than 30 songs, released in 1936 by Columbia Gramophone Company Limited under the title *Fakir Juvam*. The record featured both songs and dialogues, combining humour with melody.

In addition, he wrote poetry in Konkani and contributed articles to the diocesan newspaper *Rakno*. His writing offered insight into the cultural and social nuances of Mangaluru's Catholic community and contemporary society.

Rasquinha died in 1987 at the age of 77, leaving behind a rich legacy that straddled sculpture, theatre, music and literature.

Bridging the worlds of logic and creativity

Nemichandra narrates an initiative in Kolar that uses everyday objects to explain various complex maths concepts, making learning effortless

On December 26, 2021, during a programme at Kolar, I happened to meet and interact with V Sivashankara Sastry, who invited me to visit his home later that day.

As I entered his house, painted in Warli design, I felt as though I had stepped into a mini museum. The house was full of his personal collections. There were so many items that sparked my curiosity — fossils collected during his field trips and treks, a number of mathematical toys, simple tools and mechanisms designed by him for science demonstrations and books on a wide range of subjects. Origami and paper models were scattered all around. There were bugs too. But on a closer look, I realised they were not real — they were life-like models made out of waste wedding cards.

I wondered how a person could have so many interests and be good at each one of them. "Sir, what did you work as?" I asked in amazement.

Sastry was a bank employee for more than three decades. However, that is not his only identity. Born in 1955 in Kolar, he grew up amidst picturesque rocky surroundings.

His first collection of fossils dates back to his school days, when he would roam around the granite rocks and caves of Antaragange hills.

Later on, as his interest in mathematics deepened, he began demonstrating even intricate mathematical equations effortlessly, with simple toys. I never knew a mathematical formula could be so beautifully represented and lucidly explained.

Multi-skilled talent

It is difficult to introduce a person like VSS Sastry. He is a science and mathematics communicator, a science writer, translator, modeller and origamian. But even that is not a complete list of what he is.

He has immense interest and deep knowledge in diverse fields including paleography, which is the study of ancient and historical handwriting.

Even while working as a bank employee, he involved school students, particularly the underprivileged ones, in workshops where he taught them the basic concepts of science and mathematics, a mission he has continued till today.

What makes him different is the use of everyday objects and inexpensive materials such as paper, sticks, marbles and threads to explain astronomical events, and mathematical 3D abstractions. He has even designed costless experiments to illustrate the principles of aerodynamics.

He combines the art of origami with the science of mathematics and this has made his 'Maths through Origami' a hit among children.

He is also a national resource person for Vigyan Prasar, an organisation that promotes scientific literacy and awareness in the country.

Until now, he has conducted more than 850 workshops. Now 70 years old, he travels to schools, colleges and other organisations on invitations and happily takes sessions for children.

He expects nothing in return but the joy of reaching out to them and making maths fun to learn.

Cancer visited him in 2017, but he battled it bravely and continued his work. While most of the patients around him were depressed and stuck in the 'why me?' groove, Sastry cheerfully went around saying, "Cancer is just like an accident — it can happen to anyone." He kept himself busy in the hospital with reading, writing, translating and sketching.

Mind behind the Math Park

He is also the designer of the interactive Math Park installations at the Agastya Foundation, which I had visited earlier at Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh. I had marveled at them then, unaware that the mind behind them was Sastry.

Sastry has authored more than 30 books in Kannada and English, an extension of his mission to spread maths and science awareness which is critical as the world gears up for an AI revolution.

Science communicator VSS Sastry conducts workshops on mathematics and science. His sessions 'Maths through Origami' are popular among children. PHOTOS BY AUTHOR

DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Tejashwi files nomination from Raghopur

Seat standoff: I.N.D.I.A bloc yet to seal deal

Page 11

State govt reduces SSLC, PUC pass score from 35 to 33

No decision yet on reducing total marks for first language subjects

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka has lowered SSLC and PUC pass marks for state board students from 35 to 33 with effect from this academic year, in a major overhaul to align the exam standards with that of the CBSE and other boards.

The School Education and Literacy Department, which had issued a draft notification in this regard and invited response from the public a few months ago, announced on Wednesday implementation of the revised system from March/April 2026 board exams.

Making the announcement, School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa said more than 700 responses in favour of lowering the pass marks were received against just eight responses seeking a status quo.

However, no decision has been made yet on reducing total marks for first language subjects in the SSLC from existing 125 to 100.

"Regarding first language subject marks we need to discuss with the chief minister and also get public opinion. But we will give clarity about it before the board exams this year," Bangarappa said.

▸ Pass marks, Page 6

'Policy needed for survey works'

Madhu Bangarappa said he would seek a policy to utilise staff from other government departments also for conducting survey works. "During the ongoing caste survey, teachers are facing various issues including threats. Those who trouble them during the survey will face legal action," he said.

Fresh Pak-Afghan clashes kill dozens

Islamabad strikes Kabul before announcing truce

KABUL/ISLAMABAD, AGENCIES

Dozens of troops and civilians were killed in a fresh round of border skirmishes between Pakistan and Afghanistan on Wednesday, officials on both sides of the frontier said, hours before Islamabad said the two sides had agreed to a 48-hour ceasefire.

The ceasefire was announced by Pakistan's foreign ministry after a week of violence between the two neighbours that flared after explosions in Kabul and elsewhere in Afghanistan.

The Taliban government in Kabul launched an offensive along parts of its southern border in retaliation, prompting Islamabad to vow a strong response of its own.

Both sides accused each other of attacking first.

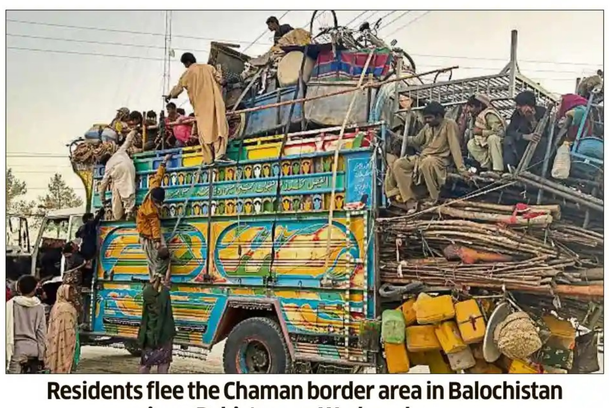
Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesperson for the Afghan government, claimed that a Pakistani attack that included artillery had killed 12 people and wounded 100 others. Pakistan's military said it had responded to an Afghan attack. "The insinuations that the attack was initiated by Pakistan are outrageous and blatant lies," it said in a statement.

The fighting took place in the Spin Boldak border area of southern Afghanistan and central Pakistan, according to Pakistani and Afghan officials, and near the Torkham border crossing, hundreds of miles north.

Islamabad has accused Afghanistan of harbouring militant groups led by the Pakistani Taliban (TTP) on its soil, a claim Kabul denies.

With both countries on edge, plumes of black smoke were seen rising above Kabul after the two blasts in the Afghan capital on Wednesday evening.

▸ Ceasefire, Page 6



Residents flee the Chaman border area in Balochistan province, Pakistan, on Wednesday. REUTERS

Fresh fighting on Wednesday

- Clash locations: Spin Boldak border area, Torkham border crossing
- Both sides accuse each other of attacking first
- Pak military accuses Afghan forces of attacking Pakistani border posts near Torkham crossing
- Local Afghan governor's office says Pak forces opened fire first

Explosions rock Kabul

Pakistan neither confirms nor denies responsibility

NCRTC ready to prepare DPRs for B'luru rapid rail corridors

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has expressed willingness to prepare detailed project reports (DPRs) for semi-high-speed Namo Bharat rail corridors between Bengaluru and nearby cities.

The Karnataka government has been holding discussions with the NCRTC to develop a regional rapid transit system (RRTS) to decongest Bengaluru.

The NCRTC is the developer of the partially operational Delhi-Meerut RRTS, also called Namo Bharat rapid rail.

The joint-venture company has proposed four corridors: Bengaluru-Hoskote-Kolar (65 km), Bengaluru-Mysuru (145 km), Bengaluru-Tumakuru (60 km) and Bengaluru-Hosur-Krishnagiri-Dharmapuri (138 km).

The average speed of trains on this network will be 85 km/hr. While the travel time between Bengaluru and Mysuru will be 1.40 hour, the train will take 42 minutes to travel from Bengaluru to Tumakuru.

▸ RRTS, Page 6

PROPOSED RRTS ROUTES

- Bengaluru-Hoskote-Kolar (65 km)
- Bengaluru-Mysuru (145 km)
- Bengaluru-Tumakuru (60 km)
- Bengaluru-Hosur-Krishnagiri-Dharmapuri (138 km)

Scheme offering 'B' to 'A' khata switch to benefit 7.5L properties

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Wednesday launched a new scheme that allows 'B' khata properties in Bengaluru to obtain an 'A' khata by paying 5% of the property's guidance value. The move is expected to benefit over 7.5 lakh properties and generate substantial revenue.

The conversion cost could be significant for owners. For instance, an individual owning a 30x40 plot — where the guidance value is Rs 7,000 a sq ft — will have to pay Rs 4.2 lakh for an 'A' khata. Even if 30% of the 7.5 lakh 'B' khata properties opt for the scheme, the government could earn nearly Rs 10,000 crore.

Details on Page 2

DA hike for state govt staff

The state government on Wednesday hiked DA for its staff from 12.25% to 14.25% of basic pay.

Details on Page 6

Domestic help: Bill proposes registration

BENGALURU, DHNS: Domestic workers cannot be employed without a written agreement between employers and workers, as per the Karnataka Domestic Workers (Social Security and Welfare) draft Bill, which was made public on Wednesday.

The draft Bill mandates minimum and overtime wages. The public has been given one-month time to raise objections.

Details on Page 6

City nurtured you, don't hurt it, DKS tells corporates

BENGALURU, DHNS: Deputy CM D K Shivakumar on Wednesday went on the offensive over industry leaders' criticism of Bengaluru's infrastructure. While asserting that companies should stop "hurting the city and the state that have contributed to their growth", he indirectly challenged them to publicly disclose the projects they have undertaken under corporate social responsibility (CSR).

"They are hurting themselves by criticising Bengaluru. This city has given them everything. Where were they in the last 25 years?" Shivakumar questioned, while speaking to the reporters at Vidhana Soudha. "Some people take the name of Bengaluru as they need it to market themselves. Those who criticise must remember how much of land the government has given them to establish business in Bengaluru."

▸ DKS, Page 6

MARUTI SUZUKI
NEXA

CELEBRATE THE SEASON OF INDULGENCE.

This festive season, drive home NEXA's Premium MPV, the XL6.

NEXA SAFETY SHIELD
- ESP WITH HILL HOLD ASSIST
- 6 AIRBAGS AS STANDARD
- 3 POINT ELR WITH SEAT BELT REMINDER
- ABS WITH EBD
- ISOFIX CHILD SEAT ANCHORAGES
- REVERSE PARKING ASSIST
- FRONTAL OFFSET IMPACT, SIDE IMPACT, AND PEDESTRIAN COMPLIANCE
- 3 YEARS/1 00 000km WARRANTY

XL6

VENTILATED SEATS

360 VIEW CAMERA

3 years 100 000 km WARRANTY* EXTENDABLE UPTO 6 YEARS

BENEFITS OF UP TO ₹ 35 000**

SCAN TO CONNECT TO A SHOWROOM NEAR YOU

E-BOOK TODAY @ WWW.NEXAEXPERIENCE.COM
Contact us at 1800-200-[6392] 1800-102-[6392]

For detailed T&C kindly visit nearest dealership. Maruti Suzuki India Limited reserves the right to discontinue offers without notice and offers may vary across variants. **Offer includes consumer offer, exchange bonus and institutional or rural offer (wherever applicable) on select models/variants. Finance is at the sole discretion of financier. Above offers are valid till 23rd October 2025. Black glass shade on the vehicle is due to the lighting effect. Images used are for illustration purposes only. Car color may vary due to printing on paper. *3 years or 100 000 km whichever is earlier.

Chhoti bachat ko badi banaye
Aur bima bhi paayein

LIC's
An Attractive Plan Exclusively for Women

Get Life Insurance cover for Basic sum Assured

Sum Assured & Guaranteed Additions payment on maturity

Additional Attractive Money Back payable as per three choices

BIMA Lakshmi

Plan No.: 881 UIN: 512N389V01

Also Available Online

Limited Premium Payment Plan with Money Back at Regular Intervals*

- Guaranteed Additions as a percentage of Total Tabular Annual Premium
- Three attractive Options to Choose/ Defer timing of Survival Benefit payment
- Auto Cover facility
- Age Eligibility 18 years to 50 years

*As per the Survival Benefit option chosen

LIC
भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

Non - Par, Non - Linked, Life, Individual, Savings Plan

LIC/P1/2025-26/17/Eng

Download LIC Mobile App | Visit: licindia.in | Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827 | Our WhatsApp No: 8976862090 Say 'Hi' | Follow us : LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI or its officials do not involve in any activities of insurance business like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums, refund of amounts. Policyholders or the prospects receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

‘B’ to ‘A’ khata switch plan to benefit 7.5L owners

Scheme likely to fetch government Rs 10,000 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday launched a new scheme that allows ‘B’ khata properties in Bengaluru to obtain an ‘A’ khata by paying 5% of the property’s guidance value. The move is expected to benefit over 7.5 lakh properties and generate substantial revenue for the government.

While the Bengaluru Development Minister described the scheme — a long-awaited one — as “a Deepavali gift”, the conversion costs could be significant for property owners. For instance, an individual owning a 30x40 sqft plot — where the guidance value is Rs 7,000 per sqft — will have to pay Rs 4.2 lakh to obtain an ‘A’ khata.

For now, the scheme applies to vacant plots and plots with a single-unit building (single ownership). It does not benefit individual flat owners who hold a ‘B’ khata or those residing in multi-storied apartment units.

Even if 30% of the 7.5 lakh ‘B’ khata properties opt for the scheme, the government stands to earn additional revenue of nearly Rs 10,000 crore. “This is a historic decision,” said Shivakumar.

“The application window is open for 100 days from November 1. Not just 7.5 lakh, but we expect as many as 15 lakh properties to benefit from this, as many are yet to come under the tax net,” he said. Citizens can apply for ‘A’ khata online, or at two help desks which will be set up in each corporation office. Bangalore One centres will also provide assistance.

In addition to the 5% conversion fee, the government has decided to collect a registration fee of Rs 500 from each applicant. Once registered, civic officials will visit the site to verify the property’s existence and road access.

He clarified the scheme does not regularise any unauthorised construction on such properties. But, obtaining ‘A’ khata will enable owners to apply for building plans and access bank loans easily.

When asked about the expected revenue, he said the corporations will know once property registrations are complete.

A senior BBMP official said the revenue collected will be used to create parks and additional infrastructure in areas with limited open spaces. “We fixed 5% of the guidance value for a property that should have relinquished 15% of the area had the norms been followed. This is an attractive offer. Converting to ‘A’ khata will also increase property value,” he said.

Not everyone agrees. A builder who has undertaken small-scale residential projects said 5% of the guidance value was too high. He said an ‘A’ khata is mainly required for getting sanctioned building plans. “The problem of obtaining loans is largely resolved due to competition among financial institutions,” he said, adding the demand may be subdued as the government has already exempted 1,200 sqft plots from the occupancy certificate requirement. Though owners may have to pay a premium to upgrade their status to ‘A’ khata, their surroundings may not improve.

How to get ‘A’ khata?

For plots less than 2,000 sqm, citizens can apply on **https://bbmp.karnataka.gov.in/BtoAKhata.** Applications will be processed at the corporation level. For plots bigger than 2,000 sqm, citizens must log in on: **bpas.bbmpgov.in.** These applications will go to the Greater Bengaluru Authority.

What are ‘A’ & ‘B’ khatas?

- ‘A’ khatas are granted to properties that comply with all statutory regulations, particularly those developed by BDA.
- ‘B’ khatas issued to properties that do not meet regulatory requirements like revenue sites carved out of agricultural land, sites on unapproved layouts and flats built without sanctioned plans

‘B’ khata challenges

7.5 lakh ‘B’ khatas have been issued for tax collection but such properties are not eligible for building plan approvals. Constructions on them are unauthorised and most banks, financial institutions refuse loans for them.

Gosha Hospital staff suspended over abortions, maternal deaths

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Department of Medical Education has suspended the head of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department, two senior residents, and a staff nurse of Gosha Hospital on charges of corruption, harassment, and medical negligence leading to maternal deaths.

Located in Shivajinagar, the Government Haji Sir Ismail Sait (HSIS) Gosha Hospital functions under the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute (SABVMCRI).

An internal inquiry was launched against Dr Deepika, Professor and Head of the OB-GYN Department, following complaints from patients and staff. The inquiry found that she had conducted illegal abortions and unnecessary hysterectomies, and violated medical guidelines in Caesarean deliveries, induction of labour, and tubal sterilisation.

Sumalatha, a contract nurse, was found transferring medical equipment from Gosha to private hospitals. Investigators also discovered unusual online transactions on GPay and PhonePe between Sumalatha and Dr Deepika.

Dr Priyanka, a senior resident on contract and a classmate of Dr Deepika, lacked knowledge of LaQshya guidelines, a national programme to improve maternity care and reduce maternal and infant deaths. Despite this, she attended to several delivery cases, leading to complications and deaths, the report said.

Dr Ramya, another senior resident, was also accused of violating medical protocols. She allegedly performed a hysterectomy on a 29-year-old woman and, along with Dr Deepika, was held responsible for the death of a woman on August 20 due to medical negligence.

The report said Dr Deepika was abusive towards interns and postgraduate students and forced them to collect money on her behalf. She also tried to mislead the National Medical Council by classifying normal deliveries as gynaecological cases to secure more postgraduate seats for Gosha Hospital.

The report faulted Dr Dayanand, Medical Superintendent, for failing to ensure adherence to medical protocol, and Dr Manoj Kumar HV, Dean and Director of SABVMCRI, for not enforcing LaQshya compliance for the last two years and conducting evaluations of employees. He was also found responsible for appointing Dr Ramya and Dr Priyanka.

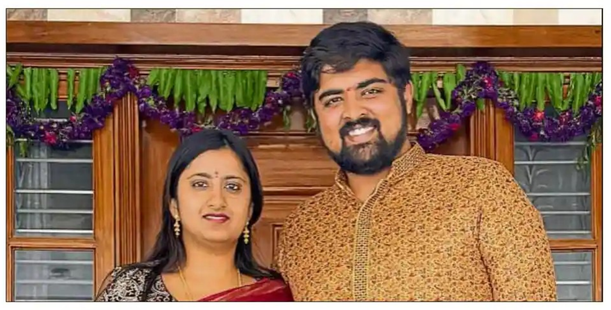
Govt stand

Mohammad Moushin, Principal Secretary of the Department of Medical Education, said that all those involved had been suspended and that stricter measures would be taken to prevent such irregularities.

Surgeon arrested for killing wife with powerful anaesthetic

Injected her with propofol multiple times while she was unwell

PRAJWAL D’SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS



Dr Kruthika M Reddy and Dr Mahendra Reddy GS

Nearly six months after the death of a 29-year-old dermatologist, the Bengaluru police have arrested her husband, a surgeon, for allegedly killing her with a powerful anaesthetic drug and disguising it as a natural death.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh on Wednesday announced the arrest of Dr Mahendra Reddy GS, 31, a gastro-surgeon at Victoria Hospital, for murdering his wife, Dr Kruthika M Reddy.

The case was registered by the Marathahalli police based on a complaint from Kruthika’s father, K Munireddy.

The couple lived in Gunjur, Southeast Bengaluru.

On April 21, 2025, after Kruthika complained of gastric pain, Mahendra inserted an intravenous cannula into her right leg to inject medicines. The next morning, he dropped her at her parents’ home in Ayyappa Layout, Munnekollal, before leaving for work.

Later that night, he injected what he claimed were medicines through the cannula, which police suspect was the anaesthetic drug propofol. The following day, Kruthika complained of leg pain and asked Mahendra on WhatsApp if she could remove the cannula. He refused, assuring her that another dose would prevent the pain from returning.

At 9 pm that night, Mahendra entered Kruthika’s room saying he had to “prepare the medicines”. Kruthika, who planned to open her own clinic the next month, had earlier sent drafts of her prescription pad to her sister and brother-in-law, dined with her parents, fed their dog, and retired to her room at 9.30 pm. Mahendra then injected the final dose.

On April 24 at 7.30 am, Mahendra called his mother-in-law to say Kruthika was unresponsive. Her father rushed in and found her motionless. They took her to a nearby hospital, where she was declared dead.

“Despite being a doctor, Mahendra did not administer CPR and insisted that an autopsy was unnecessary,” Munireddy stated in the FIR.

However, forensic experts later found traces of propofol in Kruthika’s organs. Following this, the police registered an FIR under BNS Section 103 (murder) and arrested Mahendra from Manipal on October 14.

Forensic report

The forensic report came on Tuesday. The Scene of Crime team recovered an IV cannula set, syringes and other materials used in the offence.

Trip to Goa

Senior officers said Mahendra had recently visited Goa, and investigations are on to trace how he procured the drug. “We have his custody for nine days. A detailed interrogation will reveal the motive,” an officer said.

‘He wanted to watch his wife’s autopsy’

PRAJWAL D’SOUZA
BENGALURU, DHNS

The family of Dr Kruthika M Reddy, who was allegedly murdered by her husband Dr Mahendra Reddy GS using a powerful anaesthetic drug, has claimed that he attempted to enter the autopsy room to disrupt the procedure.

“He tried to enter the autopsy room and sought permission to witness his own wife’s autopsy. The police denied access. We found it highly unusual and insisted on a detailed forensic test and analysis,” a close relative told *DH* on condition of anonymity.

“We learnt that he frequently watched TV series and movies on murder and crime. After this, his behaviour changed.

“When Kruthika’s father made enquiries, it emerged that Mahendra’s brother faced cheating and criminal cases, in which Mahendra was also named as a co-accused.”

Three days ago, the family also learnt that Mahendra had allegedly been in a relationship with a woman from his post-graduation days in Mumbai, which continued after his marriage — a fact his parents were aware of.

“He was financially dependent on Kruthika. We do not know where the money he earned during his fellowship at Victoria Hospital went. He demanded that his father-in-law set up a hospital for him, but he advised him to first gain experience by working at the new clinic, Skin and Scalpel, in Marathahalli. Later, two cheques issued by him and his father towards the clinic bounced,” the relative claimed.

Mahendra and Kruthika were married on May 26, 2024, in a grand ceremony at Gunjur on the eastern outskirts of Bengaluru. “A few days after the marriage, it became clear that he did not care for my daughter. He told her he had no money when she wanted to go on a trip to Europe,” her father, K Munireddy, said in the FIR.

Overdosage of propofol can cause death: Expert

Dr Vijay Kumar, anaesthetist and intensivist at Victoria Hospital, said propofol is an intravenous anaesthetic used during surgeries or sedation procedures.

“The dosage is usually 1–2.5 mg per kilogram of body weight, and to maintain sedation, 50–200 micrograms per kilogram per minute is administered,” Dr Kumar explained.

“An overdose can cause a steep drop in blood pressure and heart rate, leading to death. Using an IV cannula in the leg at home is highly unusual,” Dr Kumar added.

(Inputs from Amullya Shivashankar)

POTHOLE ALERT

Residents of Lavelle Road place a branch in a deep pothole to alert motorists to the danger. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

UPI clue cracks robbery case; Two arrested

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kengeri police have arrested two men who robbed an ITI student and his younger brother on 80 Feet Road in Ganakal.

Sharath K was returning home with his brother when two men rode up on a scooter, snatched their phone and wristwatches, and forced them to transfer Rs 3,500 to a friend’s account through UPI. Police tracked the suspects through the digital transaction trail and arrested Prathap, 22, and his associate Madesha, 21.

Drugs seized at B’luru airport

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru Airport officials on Wednesday said they intercepted four foreigners attempting to smuggle 94 kg of hydroponic ganja worth Rs 94 crore.

The suspects had concealed the contraband in tin boxes and were travelling with four others, posing as a family. Based on a tip-off, officials seized the drugs and booked the suspects.

Water tanker mows down 9-year-old girl; driver on the run

BENGALURU, DHNS: A nine-year-old girl died after being run over by a water tanker in Jeevan Bima Nagar on Wednesday.

The deceased was identified as Anushri, daughter of Ramachandrappa and Lakshmi Bai, residents of Shivalingaiah Colony on HAL Road. The family, originally from Kalaburagi, are daily wage labourers who moved to the city a few years ago.

Police said the tanker had arrived to deliver water to a building. Anushri was reportedly playing near the spot when, after unloading the water, the driver reversed the vehicle and hit her.

The driver fled the scene after the accident. The Jeevan Bima Nagar traffic police have registered a case and are investigating further.

For women in informal jobs, menstrual leave remains out of reach

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Workers say that if a woman takes leave on different dates each month, managers may suspect she is misusing the policy. DH FILE PHOTO

Women working in garment factories, pourakarmikas, and ASHA workers may not benefit from the one-day menstrual leave announced for women in private and government sectors.

Garment workers’ unions say women in the sector are already deprived of adequate leave. About 85 per cent of the workforce in the industry are women.

Pratibha R, president of the Garment and Textile Workers’ Union (GTWU), said employees must complete a year of service before becoming eligible for 14 days of paid leave.

“The menstrual leave is a far-fetched dream for them,” she said. “There are no sick leaves. If employees are not able to work, they lose pay.”

Wage loss aside, workers face humiliation for taking time off.

Rathnamma, a garment worker, said, “Our sick leave gets cancelled many times. They call us back and order us to take leave another day.”

Susheelamma, another worker, pointed out that if a woman takes leave on different dates each month, managers may think she is misusing the rule.

Some private firms already provide menstrual leave, while others allow women to use sick leave for it.

Pourakarmikas

The plight of pourakarmikas is similar. Though the state has regularised thousands of them, they still do not get a weekly day off and are allowed only two half-days a month.

“Most pourakarmikas are women. When we ask for menstrual leave, authorities say ‘we are paying you Rs 41,000 and giving two half-days’,” said Nirmala, a civic worker. “These women work on the roads without facilities to change sanitary napkins or rest. This is nothing but exploitation.”

Anganwadi workers

Varalakshmi, president of the Karnataka State Anganwadi Workers’ Union, said each anganwadi has two workers, so one can take leave while the other works.

ASHA workers

However, for ASHA workers, this may not be possible. “There is only one ASHA worker for every 1,000 people. Accommodating menstrual leave might be difficult,” she said.

Govt response

Dr HN Gopalakrishna, Labour Commissioner, said a meeting with stakeholders will be held once the government order on menstrual leave is issued.

20-year-olds arrested for stabbing teen after fight over girl

BENGALURU, DHNS: The RT Nagar police have arrested two 20-year-old men for stabbing a second-year PU student following a quarrel over a girl.

The suspects were identified as Pradhudev, an ambulance driver, and his friend Ganesh, a restaurant worker.

Police said that on October 11, the duo confronted 19-year-old Vaibhav Aryan, a resident of Thimmaiah Garden, after a prior dispute involving his girlfriend.

The argument escalated after a phone exchange, and during the confrontation outside Aryan’s college, Pradhudev allegedly stabbed him in the left hand and abdomen.

Aryan sustained minor injuries and was admitted to hospital. Based on his complaint, the police arrested both suspects. Further probe is underway.

Three arrested for robbing Sudanese student

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Seshadripuram police have arrested three people for allegedly robbing a Sudanese student in Bengaluru on October 8.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Hakay Akshay Macchindra said on Wednesday that the arrested were Philps George, 29, Vikram, 25, and Ajith, 29, all residents of the city.

Police said that around 12.40 am on October 8, the 25-year-old student was returning from Koramangala on his two-wheeler. Near Rajiv Gandhi Circle in Seshadripuram, he noticed the three suspects who asked him to stop.

Frightened, he continued riding. The three followed him and, while trying to escape, the student lost control of his bike and fell around 1 am. The suspects caught hold of him, snatched his mobile phone and bike key, and demanded to know what else he had.

The student told them he had nothing more on him. The suspects then transferred Rs 11,000 from his phone and took his two-wheeler.

“Thereafter, the three suspects fled the scene, taking the student’s two-wheeler and leaving him behind. The student sought help from nearby members of the public, who assisted him in contacting the police. Police arrived at the spot, shifted the student to hospital for treatment, and later registered a case of robbery at the Seshadripuram police station based on the student’s complaint,” a police officer said.

“During the course of the investigation, the police arrested the three suspects on October 14 and seized from them two two-wheelers (one used in the crime and one belonging to the complainant), four mobile phones belonging to the accused and the complainant, and Rs 11,000 cash. Legal action has been initiated against the suspects, and further probe is in progress.”

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Dr Vishnuvardhan: ‘101 Memories’ Musical Evening by HAL Lalitakala Sangha; Veerakaputra Srinivas, Sundar Raj and Shyam to attend; Old HMA Auditorium, HAL; 3.30 pm.

Sri Saraswathi Vidyamandir (SSVM) 75th Anniversary Celebration: N Manjunath Prasad and Soujanya to attend; SSVM Campus, VV Puram; from 5 pm.

CULTURAL

‘Kanaka Kavya Deevege’: Inauguration of the three-day Kanaka Literature & Culture Festival; Inauguration by Siddaramaiah; DK Shivakumar, Shivaraj Tangadagi, Dr CN Manjunath to attend; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli; 5.30 pm.

‘Nanna Tejasvi’: Play performance by Kalamadhyama; Nayana Auditorium; 7 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

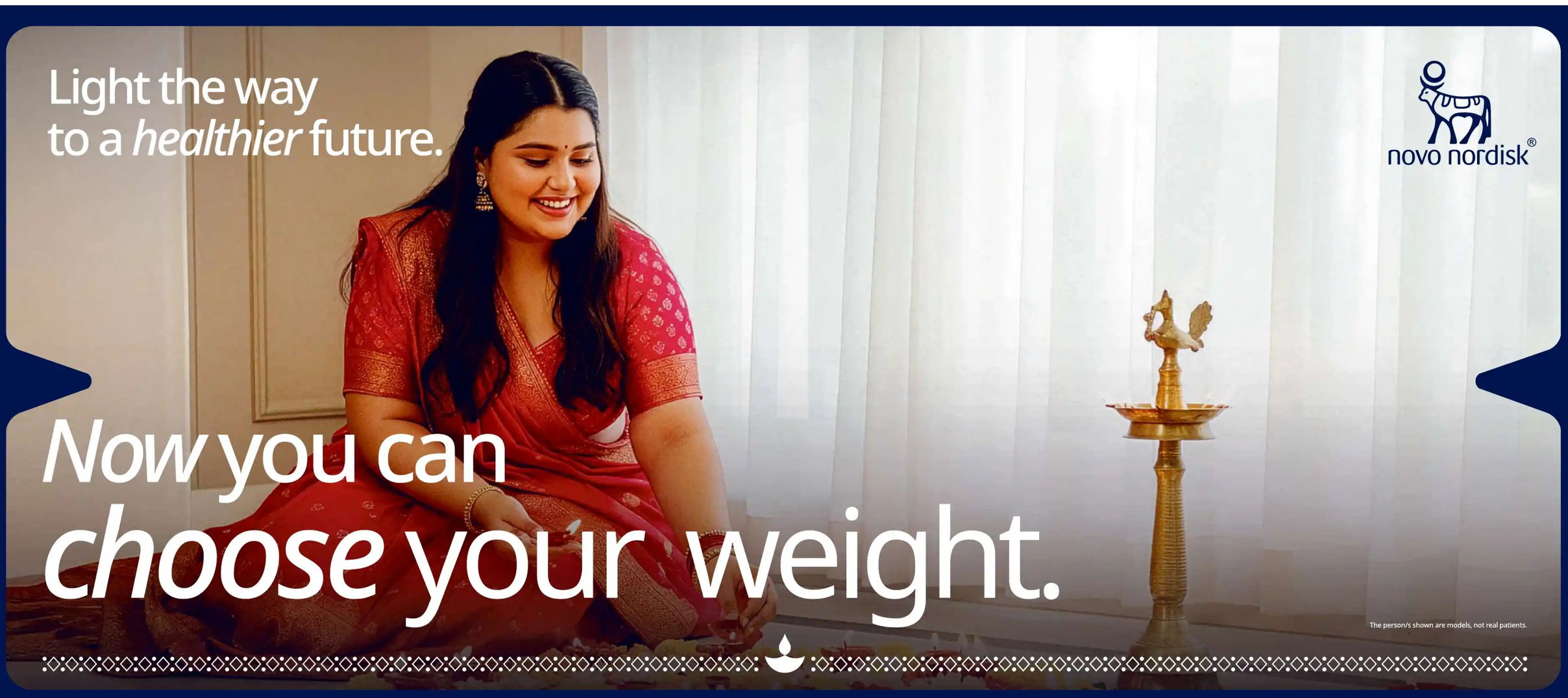
Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.6°C
Minimum	21.2°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	79%
Sunset (Oct 16)	6:01 pm
Sunrise (Oct 17)	6:10 am
Moonrise	00:56 am
Moonset	2:04 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.**
Please note that hard copies will not be accepted



It's not a race. Managing weight is about your health. Even small results on this journey can have significant improvements on your health and quality of life.[1]

Start achieving health goals on your weight management journey.[1-4]

Just 5% weight loss
- Reduces Blood Sugar
- Improves Blood Pressure

5 - 10% weight loss
- Prevents Diabetes
- Reduces Cholesterol
- Prevents Fatty Liver Disease
- Manages PCOS

>15% weight loss
- Long-Term Diabetes Remission
- Lowers Risk of Heart Disease & Stroke
- Improves Liver Health
- Reduces Knee Osteoarthritis Pain

Take the first step. Talk to a doctor.

86554 52746

wegowithyou.org

For people with overweight or obesity. Weight management outcomes may vary among individuals and should be pursued under the guidance of a registered healthcare professional. This is for educational purposes only. For more information, reach out to a registered healthcare professional. Apis Bull logo and wegowithyou are trademarks of Novo Nordisk A/S. References: 1. Ryan DH et al. Curr Obes Rep. 2. Horn et al. Postgrad Med 2022;134:359–75. 3. Wharton S et al. CMAJ. 2020 Aug 4;192(31):E875-E891. 4. Dent R et al. Metabolism. 2020 Dec 1;113:154388. Novo Nordisk India Pvt Ltd, NXT-2, 1 & 2 Floor, Embassy Manyata Business Park, Nagavara. Bangalore 5600045 | IN25OB00502 | Reviewed on 10/10/2025

SPORT
UTILITY
VEHICLES
mahindra Rise
ONE REASON TO CELEBRATE IS
NEVER ENOUGH.
TOTAL BENEFITS UP TO ₹2.56 LAKH*.
THAR ROXX
New Ex-Showroom Price starting at ₹12.25 LAKH#
GST Savings | Additional Benefits
Up to ₹1.33 LAKH* | Up to ₹20 000.00*
XUV 700
New Ex-Showroom Price starting at ₹13.66 LAKH#
GST Savings | Additional Benefits
Up to ₹1.43 LAKH* | Up to ₹81 000.00*
XUV 3XO
XUV 3XO REVX
New Ex-Showroom Price starting at
₹7.28 LAKH# | ₹8.15 LAKH#
GST Savings | Additional Benefits
Up to ₹1.56 LAKH* | Up to ₹90 000.00*
*The benefit mentioned is of a particular model & variant. Benefits will vary depending on the model & variant selected.
#The prices mentioned are the ex-showroom price (All-India) of the base variant of that particular model and may vary as per the model and its variant. For exact details please contact your nearest authorized Mahindra dealership.

SIREESH AUTO PVT LTD: BOMMASANDRA, DOMMASANDRA, HOSUR ROAD, RAJAJINAGAR, YELAHANKA,VARTUR , DEVANAHALLI: 8884499046, **INDIA GARAGE BANGALORE:** LALBAGH, PALACE CROSS ROAD, WHITEFIELD, CHIKKABALLAPURA: 9785513333, **PPS MAHINDRA:** HEBBAL, INDIRANAGAR, KALYAN NAGAR, KANAKPURA ROAD, KORAMANGALA, LAVELLE ROAD, NELAMANGALA, KOLAR: 6309555517, **ANANT CARS AUTO PVT LTD:** BANNERGHATTA ROAD, KR PURAM, MARATHAHALLI, MYSORE ROAD: 9900077177.

Act against those trolling 10-yr-old KBC contestant, say activists

BENGALURU, DHNS

Child Rights activists from the state have urged the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) to register a complaint regarding online trolling and harassment of a 10-year-old boy following his appearance on the TV show 'Kaun Banega Crorepathi-17' hosted by legendary actor Amitabh Bachchan.

In a letter to the commission, Nagasimha G Rao, child rights activist, said, "I am writing to bring to your urgent attention a distressing case of online trolling and harassment directed at a 10-year-old boy who recently appeared on a television programme hosted by renowned actor Amitabh Bachchan. The child, in his innocence, provided what has been perceived as a rude or inappropriate response during the show. However, it is evident that the boy, being only 10 years old, lacks maturity and understanding to appropriately respond to a figure of such stature and did not intend any malice. This incident has unfortunately led to widespread sharing of his images and videos on social media platforms, resulting in severe trolling, ridicule and cyber bullying".

He said, "The relentless online harassment, including unauthorised dissemination of the boy's photographs and personal details, is infringing upon his right to privacy and dignity, potentially causing long-term psychological harm.

"The boy is innocent and requires counselling and support rather than public shaming, which could scar him for life and affect his mental health, education and social development. I urge NCPCR to take immediate and decisive action in this matter. Investigate the sources of the trolling and hold accountable those individuals, groups or platforms responsible for spreading the content and inciting harassment".

Edu dept to launch campaign to boost enrolment at govt schools

Min points out to many attractive features of K'taka Public Schools

BENGALURU, DHNS

Not to be outdone by private schools, government schools across the state are leaving no stone unturned to ensure an uptick in student enrolment for the 2026-27 academic year

To that end, starting next month, the Department of School Education and Literacy will launch the 'Admission Awareness Campaign' aimed at attracting more students to government schools.

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa on Wednesday said that government officials, cutting across departments, along with teachers and elected representatives, would be roped in for the campaign.

Enumerating the many merits of government schools, the minister said, "We have the best teachers, and infrastructure is excellent at Karnataka Public Schools (KPS), where students can study up to pre-university on the same campus."

Madhu said that 800 government schools across the state would soon be designated KPS institutions.

"We are spending Rs 4 crore on upgrading these schools to attract more students. We want 1,200 students admitted to each KPS. We also want to increase the intake for pre-primary and class one from the current range of 30-40 to somewhere between 50 and 60," said Madhu, adding that arts and music would be taught at each KPS, which would also be equipped with libraries.

At KPS, education is offered in both Kannada- and English-medium till class five, after which students have the option to choose the medium of instruction.

"Computer science is taught to students right from class one at KPS. Also, we offer free transportation for students," said Madhu.

In a first, the government is constituting a governing council headed by the local legislator to monitor the KPS institution in their respective jurisdiction, the minister said.

Moral science education

Moral science lessons will be an integral part of the curriculum from the current academic year, announced Madhu Bangarappa. However, the lessons would be offered using digital content this year given that nearly half the academic year is over, he added.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will unveil the content for moral science lessons on November 1, and it will be made available to the public as well, so they can share their opinions on the lessons," said the minister, adding that moral science classes would either be held weekly or fortnightly starting next year.

Empathy and compassion, honesty and integrity, sustainable living and ecological awareness, civic responsibilities, diversity, equity and inclusion, will be among the topics covered in the lessons.

PERCHED PERFECTLY

It is breeding season for black-headed ibises at the Ramsar site in Ankasamudra bird sanctuary in Hagaribommanahalli taluk in Vijayanagara district. Their chicks are seen resting on a tree. DH PHOTO/C SHIVANANDA

NMPA golden jubilee: Postal stamp, coin released

▶ **NEW DELHI, DHNS:** Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal released a commemorative postal stamp, a coin of a face value of Rs 50 and the official Golden Jubilee Anthem of the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) to mark the golden jubilee celebrations of NMPA during the curtain-raiser event organised at Bharat Mandapam on Wednesday.

Guest lecturers' row: HC verdict puts govt in a fix

Issue to be placed before Cabinet today

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government is in a dilemma over the appointment of guest lecturers to state-run first-grade colleges in the wake of the High Court dismissing its proposal to extend the tenure of those faculty members who do not meet the criteria prescribed by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Hearing the case on October 8, the bench comprising Justice D K Singh and Justice Rajesh Rai instructed the state government to abide by UGC's 2018 regulations.

On the appointment of guest lecturers to those subjects for which UGC qualified candidates are in short supply, the High Court said that it would pass necessary orders after hearing all parties concerned.

An official from the Department of Higher Education said, "We can either conduct counselling for the appointment of guest lecturers to fill the vacancies or file a Special Leave Petition with the Supreme Court. The Advocate General, however, is not in favour of approaching the apex court. We need to seek a legal opinion before a final decision can be taken on the subject."

Sources have confirmed to *DH* that the issue will be tabled for discussion during the Cabinet meeting scheduled on Thursday.

Sudha Murty refuses to participate in caste survey

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rajya Sabha member Sudha Murty has declined to participate in the ongoing socio-educational survey (caste survey) undertaken by the state government.

She has reportedly signed a self-declaration letter to decline her participation.

Last week, enumerators visited Murty's house in Jayanagar as part of the survey work.

"We do not belong to any backward class. Hence, participating in this survey will not be of any help to the government. Therefore, we decline to participate," she wrote in the declaration form.

In Bengaluru, so far, about 15.42 lakh households have been covered. It is not clear how many per cent of the households have declined to participate.

Sources, however, said that among those who participated, they have responded to only 25% of the total questions.

Given that Bengaluru is still lagging as compared to other districts, the state government is planning to extend the deadline till October 27, it's learnt. An official order may be issued on Thursday.

Special trains to clear extra rush

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) will run special trains to clear the extra rush of passengers during Deepavali.

They are - Train number 07365 Hubballi-Madgaon Express Special will run via Yeshwantpur on October 17. It will depart from Hubballi at 5.15 am and reach Madgaon at 5.30 am the next day.

The stoppages include Haveri, Davangere, Birur, Arsikere, Tumakuru, Yeshwantpur, Kunigal, Channarayapatna, Hassan, Sakleshpur, Subrahmanya Road, Kabakaputtur, Bantwal, Surathkal, Mulki, Udupi, Barkur, Kundapura, Byndoor, Bhatkal, Murdeshwar, Honnavar, Kumta, Gokarna Road, Ankola and Karwar.

Train number 07366 will depart from Madgaon at 6.30 am on October 18 and arrive at Bengaluru Cantonment at 11.30 pm.

It provides stoppages at Karwar, Ankola, Gokarna Road, Kumta, Honnavar, Murdeshwar, Bhatkal, Byndoor, Kundapura, Barkur, Udupi, Mulki, Surathkal, Bantawala, Kabakaputtur, Subrahmanya Road, Sakleshpur, Hassan, Channarayapatna, Kunigal and Chikkabanavara.

Train number 06205 will depart from B'luru Cantonment at noon on October 19 and reach Madgaon at 5.30 am the next day. In the return direction, train number 06206 will depart from Madgaon at 6.30 am on October 20 and arrive at Cantonment at 11.30 pm.

The stoppages are provided at SMVT Bengaluru, Chikkabanavara, Kunigal, Channarayapatna, Hassan, Sakleshpur, Subrahmanya Road, Kabakaputtur, Bantwal, Surathkal, Mulki, Udupi, Barkur and other places.

PAC wants K'taka Golf Association lease rent hiked

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has recommended that the government hike the lease rent payable by the Karnataka Golf Association (KGA) from 2% of its gross annual income to a minimum of 25%.

The PAC, headed by senior BJP lawmaker C C Patil, decided this at its meeting on Tuesday.

Established in 1973, the KGA is spread across 124 acres of land in Challaghatta, which belongs to the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC). The KGA entered into a lease agreement with KSTDC in May 2018 for a period of 30 years commencing from May 2010. In 2023-24, the KGA paid land lease rent of Rs 1.06 crore.

The PAC has sought a report from the government on the utilisation of the KGA land.

"The land was given for the purpose of promoting tourism. A report has been sought on whether or not this purpose has been fulfilled," a PAC source said.

It is also said that the PAC recommended that the government exert more control on the affairs of the KGA. The KGA has 4,500 members.

Foresters rescue 3 tiger cubs

CHAMARAJANAGAR, DHNS: Forest personnel have rescued three tiger cubs that had got separated from their mother on Punajanuru-Beduguli road in BRT tiger reserve of Chamarajanagar district.

According to department officials, two cubs were found at Bajebavi forest area by the patrolling team on Sunday.

Officials started a combing operation and found another cub on Tuesday. But the mother remains elusive.

As per guidelines laid down by the National Tiger Conservation Authority for such cases, a standard technical guidance and monitoring committee led by BRT Deputy Conservator of Forests Sripathi has been constituted.

The cubs have been shifted to the rehabilitation centre at Koorgalli in Mysuru.

Department veterinarians are monitoring them. The mother tiger will be traced soon, officials said.

A combing operation is being conducted, led by NTCA member Malleshappa, veterinarian Dr Adarsha and other forest officials.

Three tiger cubs that were found at BRT Tiger Reserve in Chamarajanagar district.

Camp elephants Bheema and Mahendra are being used for the operation. The tigress could not be traced on the first day, said Punajanur ACF Manjunath.

According to officials, usually tigresses leave their cubs back while going to hunt a prey or stay away from them during territorial fights. As the cubs were found in the core zone, around 8 km from human habitation, chances of poaching the mother being poached were less, officials said.

SIT completes questioning 11 associates of Thimarody

MANGALURU, DHNS: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burial case in Dharmasthala has completed questioning all 11 close associates of activist Mahesh Shetty Thimarody in connection with financial transactions linked to the case.

The SIT sources told *DH* that the inquiry is being carried out daily, focusing on individuals directly or indirectly connected to the investigation.

Officials have reportedly gathered key information from Thimarody's associates, particularly regarding monetary exchanges and their possible connection to the larger financial trail being examined.

Investigators believe that further questioning of the complainant-witness is essential to clarify inconsistencies and establish links between statements and financial evidence collected so far.

Notice to Mattannavar

Meanwhile, the Belthangady police have issued a notice to activist Girish Mattannavar, directing him to appear before the investigating officer in connection with his recent statement to the media.

According to police sources, officers visited Mattannavar's residence in Bengaluru on Wednesday and served the notice, asking him to appear for questioning on October 18.

Mattannavar had addressed reporters and commented on the case registered against Thimarody, stating that the latter had not absconded.

BURNING DESIRE

Shoppers cross inter-state border & red line on green crackers too

MANJUNATH SHETTAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Even as authorities push for eco-friendly celebrations, many Bengalureans are crossing over to Tamil Nadu's Hosur to buy cheaper, non-branded firecrackers ahead of Deepavali.

This *DH* reporter visited the spot only to find that most buyers said they prefer cost over compliance, while vendors complain of poor sales this season.

"This year, business has been very dull. Usually, we get a huge number of customers two weeks before the festival, but not this time," Vennila, a vendor at Attibele, on the Karnataka–Tamil Nadu border, told *DH*.

Several residents from Jayanagar, Koramangala and Electronics City told *DH* that they were unaware of the guidelines issued by the police and the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), restricting the sale of non-green crackers.

A reality check by *DH* showed crackers worth up to Rs 350 purchased in Hosur were non-green and lacked proper branding.

But vendors at Attibele, who claim to sell only green crackers, said customers looking for cheaper options prefer to head to Hosur.

Many people are crossing over to Tamil Nadu's Hosur to buy cheaper, non-branded firecrackers ahead of Deepavali. DH PHOTOS/MANJUNATH SHETTAR

Rahul, an employee at an outlet, said, "We sell local brands on regular days, but not during Deepavali as authorities trouble us".

Sagar M, a buyer from Bidar, said prices had gone up due to the festival rush.

"The last time I bought crackers was for my brother's wedding. But now, the prices are much higher because of Deepavali," he said.

A couple from Koramangala said they prefer non-green crackers.

"We've been buying non-green crackers for a few years. No police ever come to check. We get them at half the price," they said.

A family from Jayanagar purchased crackers worth 4.5 lakh and loaded them into their SUV.

The buyer, a real estate businessman, said, "We'll distribute this among four families in Nagarabhavi. Will police really come and check what kind of crackers we burst?".

Most shops that this reported visited in Hosur had complied with all safety measures.

Traffic congestion is likely to swell on Hosur Road this weekend as Bengalureans continue to drive to Tamil Nadu to buy firecrackers.

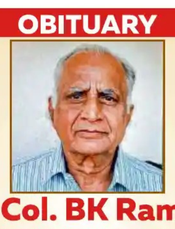
Surprise checks

A team of officials from the GST division, Koramangala, conducted checks on vehicles on Wednesday to check whether goods being transported matched the accompanying GST bills.

"Our intention is not to trouble vendors," said an official from the team.

"We are checking customers' vehicles to ensure that they have been provided valid GST bills, which ultimately helps improve government revenue".

DH
DECCAN HERALD
Obituaries & Remembrance Advertisements
Log on to : https://homages.deccanherald.com
or
Scan QR code to access booking form

OBITUARY

Lt. Col. BK Ramoo
29.10.1928–15.10.2025
Army officer and beloved patriarch who raised four generations with precision and love.
Mourned by:
Nalinee Ramoo and Family
Contact No. 9845011757

8th Death Anniversary
Date: 16-10-2025

Loving Memory of
Smt. A.V.Radha
W/o J. Haridasan
DOB: 13.01.1957 - DOD: 16.10.2017
Headmistress Vidhya Jyothi School B.T.M. 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-68

DH Classifieds

REAL ESTATE SELLING
Sites
Jigani
KHB Sites in Surya City Near Jigani
STRRA & BMRDA APPROVED PLOTS
Near Bannerghatta Road Akhata & Ekhata Plots Ready for Registration SBI & Nationalised Bank Loan (Land Owner Share) Call : 74115 54412

TOURS & TRAVEL
Travel
SRILANKA TOUR, WONDERFUL ONE WEEK, IMPORTANT PLACES INCLUDED. BEST ARRANGEMENTS. LIMITED SEATS. GANESH SHENOY 8310028157

BUSINESS
Business to Business
Business
PROPERY COLLATERALS/ Joint Ventures/ Schools/ Colleges/ Hospitals/ Takeovers/ Selling/ Buying/ New Ideas. Dr. Swamy Naidu (Vamshadhara Projects & Serivces).... 9342247637.

PERSONAL
Change of Name
I, MADHAVARAO K Hebbar, do hereby solemnly state that, as per my Aadhar card (xxxx xxxx 7167) my name is Madhavarao K Hebbar whereas in education documents, DL etc it is mentioned as Madhava Rao HK. My correct name is Madhavarao K Hebbar which will be used in all future documents, vide affidavit dt 8/10/2025 sworn to Notary.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Ramesh J & Ramesha J residing at No. 90, Thataginu Aishwarya Layout, Near Payonidhi Enterprises, Bengaluru-560082. declare that the above names pertain to me only & henceforth I shall be known as RAMESH J vide affidavit dated 15.10.2025 before notary V. Rangaraju, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Renukamma K W/o P Satish, residing at No.94, 17th B Main, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560095, have changed my name to RENUKA SATISH vide affidavit dated 03.10.2025 before notary A.S Narayana Reddy, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called RENUKA SATISH only

Lost
LOST OF GPA
I, Padmini.G W/o R.A.Shivaprakash Residing at No.29, 4th Cross, Ramakrishna Layout, Malagala Vishwaneedam Post, Bangalore-560091. have Lost my original General Power of Attorney No.58, Dtd:12-04-1985 of above addressed property wile Travailing Finders Please Contact: 7259298717

CAUTION NOTICE
Readers are advised to make appropriate thorough enquiries before acting upon any advertisement. This newspaper does not vouch or subscribe to the claims and representations made by advertisers.
Advertisement Manager The Printers (Mysore) Pvt. Ltd. Bengaluru

Govt ready for local body elections: Siddaramaiah

CM hints at Cabinet reshuffle after Bihar elections

HASSAN, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the state government was ready to conduct local body elections, like the Zilla Panchayat, Taluk Panchayat and Greater Bengaluru Authority.

Siddaramaiah on Wednesday visited the city and had the 'darshan' of Goddess Hasanamba.

Speaking to reporters, he said, "All elections will be conducted in phases. The government is in favour of conducting local body polls. These elections strengthen the democratic set up."

The chief minister said that he prayed for peace, prosperity, and welfare of the farmers of Karnataka.

Commenting on the RSS controversy, Siddaramaiah said, "No organisation, including the RSS, should create problem in public places. Tamil Nadu model will be followed and action will be taken in this regard."

To a query on Cabinet reshuffle or change in guard, the CM said, "There is no discussion on either Cabinet reshuffle or change of CM. We discussed the government programmes and party activities at the banquet recently. The party high command is currently busy with the Bihar election and no discussion has been held with them. Let us speak about this after November."

Caste survey

When asked if they would extend the date of caste survey, Siddaramaiah said, "Except for Bengaluru city, the survey has gone well in all other districts. The coverage has been more than 90%."

Reacting to JD(S) MLAs' allegations that government discriminated in fund allocation to non-Congress MLAs, Siddaramaiah said, "How much funds did they release during their tenure? How much funds were given to our MLAs during the BJP-JD(S) coalition government? It is not right to level allegations unnecessarily. They are diverting the attention of the people by telling lies."

KPCL must return unused 20k acres to forest dept: Activists

BENGALURU, DHNS: Activists from Uttara Kannada have demanded the forest department to recover the 20,000 acres of land given to the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) and reject the company's proposal for additional forest to build the Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project.

In a letter to the Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister, Vruksha Laksha Andolana stated that 20,000 acres of forest in Kargal, Shivamogga, has been lying unused as a waste land for over 50 years. The land, part of the 2 lakh acres aquired for building the Sharavathi Linganamakki dam, is still referred to as KPCL land in the revenue documents.

Anant Hegde Ashisara of the Andolana said the forest land closer to the dam was slowly being destroyed by the vested interests. "The KPCL should have returned the unused land to the government," he said, adding that the officials from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change should visit the area and inquire into the matter to bring out the truth.

Models	GST reductions up to*	Price starting from^	Additional benefits up to*
Grand i10 NIOS	₹73 808	₹5 47 278	₹55 000
VENUE	₹1 23 659	₹7 26 381	₹50 000
AURA	₹78 465	₹5 98 320	₹33 000

Models	GST reductions up to*	Price starting from^	Additional benefits up to*
EXTER	₹89 209	₹5 68 033	₹50 000
i20	₹98 053	₹6 86 865	₹50 000
ALCAZAR	₹75 376	₹14 47 305	₹60 000

HYUNDAI

Additional benefits for CSD and KPKB customers##. Additional scrappage bonus available against valid certificate of deposit~~.

For Information Contact: Toll Free: 1800114645 **Bangalore: Advaith Hyundai,** Residency Road, Ph: 9606076451 Marathahalli, Outer Ring Road, Ph: 9606076452 Vasanthnagar, Ph: 9606076453 Bannerghatta Road, Ph: 9606076454 Koramangala, Ph: 9606076455 Avalahalli, Ph: 9606076456, Sarjapura Ph: 9606076458, Bilekahalli, Ph: 9606076457, **Lakshmi Hyundai,** Hebbal Ph: 9900037900, Kalyan Nagar, Ph: 8494913303, HBR Layout, Ph: 8884441111, Whitefield, Ph: 8884497700, Devanahalli, Ph: 8884499037, **Pavan Hyundai,** Kanakpura Road, Ph: 7337882522, Electronic City, Ph: 7337882522, **Dhruvdesh Hyundai,** Banashankari, Ph: 9205770577, **Blue Hyundai,** Mysore Road, Ph: 9591100001, Rajajinagar, Ph: 9591200001, Magadi Road, Ph: 9513200033, New Bel Road, Ph: 9513000800, Basavanagudi, Ph: 9591211118, Hesserghatta Main Road, Ph: 9916208888 **Trident Hyundai,** Sankey Road, Ph: 7353762526, K R Puram, Ph: 9844266873, Hosur Road, Ph: 9743786716, Indiranagar, Ph: 9743107927, Yelahanka, Ph: 7353750677, Yeshwanthpur, Ph: 9844701452, **Mangalore: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9900144113, **Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 7760962815 **Udupi: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9972440758 **Mysore: Advaith Hyundai,** Belavadi, Ph: 9620257012 JLB Road, Ph: 9606938831, **KPR Hyundai,** Mysore Ph: 9606470291 **Hassan: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9538971132 **Shimoga: Rahul Hyundai,** Ph: 6364465441, **Hubli: Bellad Hyundai,** Ph: 9900553490, **Raam Hyundai,** Ph: 7337785999, **Kanakpura: Pavan Hyundai,** Ph: 7892718572, **Belgaum: Nagshanti Hyundai,** Ph: 9844890456, 9844890459 **Bijapur: Narayan Hyundai,** Ph: 9742272157, 9742272153 **Bagalkot: Narayan Hyundai,** Ph: 9742253245 **Jamkhandi: Narayan Hyundai,** Ph: 9742272179, **Davanagere: K J Hyundai,** Ph: 7022001201, **Chitradurga: K J Hyundai,** Ph: 7022898488, **Channagiri: K J Hyundai,** Ph: 9945059764, **Ranebennur: K J Hyundai,** Ph: 7022992350, **Gulbarga: Shah Hyundai,** Ph: 9108049250 **Tumkur: Pavan Hyundai,** Ph: 7337882522 **Bellari: Anika Hyundai,** Ph: 8884484020, **Ramanagara: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9620594433 **Kolar: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9620229885, **Chintamani:** Ph: 8147994737, **Mandya: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9740060075, **Coorg: Advaith Hyundai,** Madikeri, Ph: 9538971151 Gonikoppal, Ph: 9945774088 Kushalnagar, Ph: 9538971149 **Tiptur: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 7619577050 **Chikodi: Nagshanti Hyundai,** Ph: 8951947001 **Gokak: Nagshanti Hyundai,** Ph: 8147978240 **Savadatti: Nagshanti Hyundai,** Ph: 8007228679 **Athani: Nagshanti Hyundai,** Ph: 9620341451, **Belthangady: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 7760962819, **Sullia: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 7760962813 **Dharwad: Bellad Hyundai,** Ph: 6364333461, **Hunsur: KPR Hyundai,** Ph: 9538879235 **Channarayapatna: KPR Hyundai,** Ph: 9538879238 **Kollegala: KPR Hyundai,** Ph: 9606478215, **Sakleshpura: KPR Hyundai,** Ph: 9035708716 **Raichur: Shah Hyundai,** Ph: 9108049252 **Bidar: Shah Hyundai,** Ph: 7625093556 **Yadgir: Shah Hyundai,** Ph: 9108049262 **Sindhanur: Shah Hyundai,** Ph: 9071411136/9513897444 **Basavakalyan: Shah Hyundai,** Ph: 7353307776 **Madikeri: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9538971151 **Kushalnagar: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9538971149 **Gonikoppa: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 9945774088 **Belthangady: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 77609 62819 **Sullia: Advaith Hyundai,** Ph: 7760962813 **Chikmagalur: Rahul Hyundai,** Ph: 7795800038 **Sagara: Rahul Hyundai,** Ph: 7625080180 **Thirthahalli: Rahul Hyundai,** Ph: 7625080183 **Shikaripura: Rahul Hyundai,** Ph: 9108843230 **Kadur: Rahul Hyundai,** Ph: 9844261050 **Puttur: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9740873450 **Surathkal: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9482574530 **Karkala: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 8762464853, **Kundapura: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9900145948 **Kumta: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9535855966 **Sirsi: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 9731856300 **Karwara: Kanchana Hyundai,** Ph: 6364860518, **Hospet: Anika Hyundai,** Ph: 8884484018 **Ballari: Anika Hyundai,** Ph: 8884484020 **Koppal: Anika Hyundai,** Ph: 8884484031

Hyundai Click to Buy Scan here | my Hyundai app | Hyundai Promise Certified Pre-Owned Car

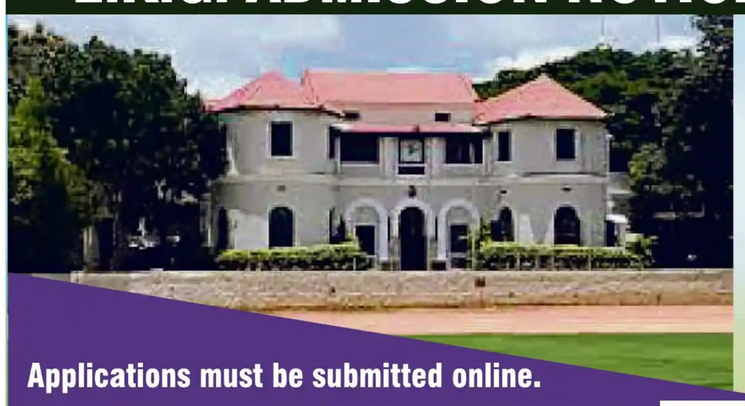
*Terms & conditions apply. ^Starting price mentioned are for base variants. *Offer valid till 31st October 2025. Offers mentioned include cash, corporate, either exchange or scrappage benefits as applicable. Offers may vary from variant to variant and city to city. HMIL reserves the right to alter or discontinue the deals, benefits or offers at its sole discretion at any time. For more details, visit your nearest Hyundai showroom. ~~Scrappage bonus will be applicable against a valid certificate of deposit (issued by government approved and operational scrappage center) and exchange of old car. In case the customer is giving certificate of deposit but not physically exchanging his old car and buying a new car – then only scrappage bonus of ₹5 000 will be paid. This advertisement and car shown here is for creative representation purposes only and the depictions are for illustrative purposes. Features and specifications shown may or may not be part of standard fitment and are subject to change without prior notice. Hyundai Motor India Limited reserves the right to change specifications, colour, equipment, and schemes at any time without prior notice. The black shade on glass is due to lighting effect. Size and colour may appear to vary due to lighting and position effect. ##CSD: Canteen Stores Department, KPKB: Kendriya Police Kalyan Bhandar.

INNOCEAN-052/25

MANAGED BY THE CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA - KARNATAKA CENTRAL DIOCESE

BISHOP COTTON BOYS' SCHOOL
Residency Road, Bengaluru – 560 025.

L.K.G. ADMISSION NOTICE 2026-2027



Applications must be submitted online.

The submission of applications will close on Monday, 3rd November 2025 at 5.00 p.m.

L.K.G Application Forms for the Academic Year 2026-2027 will be available online at the school website: www.bishopcottonboysschool.edu.in

Minimum age : 4 years
Maximum age : 5 years
} as on 1st June 2026

PRINCIPAL

BISHOP COTTON GIRLS' SCHOOL
St. Mark's Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.

L.K.G. ADMISSION NOTICE 2026-2027

L.K.G Application Forms for the Academic Year 2026-2027 will be available online at the school website: www.bishopcottongirls.com

Applications must be submitted online through the website mentioned above.

The submission of applications will close on Monday, 3rd November 2025 at 5.00 p.m.

Minimum age : 4 years
Maximum age : 5 years
} as on 1st June 2026

PRINCIPAL

BEST CO-EDUCATIONAL ICSE SCHOOL IN KARNATAKA
CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL
Richmond Road, Bengaluru – 560 025.

L.K.G. ADMISSION NOTICE 2026-2027

L.K.G Application Forms for the Academic Year 2026-2027 will be available online at the school website: www.cathedralhighschool.in and offline in the school office

The submission of applications will close on Monday, 3rd November 2025 at 5.00 p.m.

Applications must be submitted at the school counter.

Minimum age : 4 years
Maximum age : 5 years
} as on 1st June 2026

PRINCIPAL

ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL
132, St. John's Church Road, Bengaluru – 560 005.

NURSERY & L.K.G. ADMISSION NOTICE 2026-2027

Nursery & L.K.G Application Forms for the Academic Year 2026-2027 will be available online at the school website: www.johnshighedu.com

The submission of applications will close on Monday, 3rd November 2025 at 5.00 p.m.

Applications must be submitted online through the website mentioned above.

NURSERY
Minimum age : 3 years
Maximum age : 4 years
} as on 1st June 2026

L.K.G
Minimum age : 4 years
Maximum age : 5 years
} as on 1st June 2026

PRINCIPAL

ROUNAQH

ARMY INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND CATERING TECHNOLOGY (AIHM&CT)

(A UNIT OF ARMY WELFARE EDUCATION SOCIETY)
NAGARESHWARA NAGENAHALLI, PO-KOTHANUR, BENGALURU-77
Tele : 8123543207, E-Mail :aihmct@awesindia.edu.in
Web :www.aihmctbangalore.edu.in and www.aifd.edu.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

1. **AIHM&CT, Bangalore - 77** invites Tenders from reputed Vendors for **"Procurement of 60 Sets of Uniform for 30th Course BHM students of Army Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology (AIHM&CT) and 40 Sets of Uniform for 21st Course students of AIFD, AWES Campus Bangalore – 77".**
2. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for detailed Scope of Work is available in our web site **www.aihmctbangalore.edu.in** and **www.aifd.edu.in**
3. The Last date for submission of offers is **30 Oct 2025**.

Sd/- Principal

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Jharkhand Undertaking)
JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
E-Mail - pdt.juidco@gmail.com, juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

Name of Work: Development of Roundabout of Harmu Chowk Hardscape & Softscape work
Ref PR No.: 361763
Tender ID: 2025_UDD_104870_1
NIT No.: JUIDCO/Rabout/Harmu/4079/663

All the bidders are hereby intimated that the tender for "Development of Roundabout of Harmu Chowk Hardscape & Softscape work" bearing Tender ID: 2025_UDD_104870_1 is hereby cancelled as no bids were received against the floated tender.
All the bidders are hereby requested to kindly wait for future correspondence.

Sd/-
(B K Roy)
Project Director (Technical)

PR 364216 (Urban Development)25-26*D

Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs
3rd Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Ranchi -834002

Letter No.-kha.up.ni.-24/chini-01/2025-**1692**
Date : 10-10-2025

Tender Cancellation Notice

Tender Reference No. Kha.Up.Ni.-24(Chi.Vi. Yo.)-01/2025-1371 Dated:20-08-2025 (GeM Bid No. – GEM/2025/B/6594016 Dt. 21-08-2025) for supply of Free Flow White Crystal Sugar (Grade-S-30/M-30) (As per FSSAI Notms) for 1st Quarter (April 2025 to June 2025) pf Financial Year 2025-26 through e-Tender Followed by e-Reverse Auction on Gem Platform with reference to Directorate Letter No. – 1391 Dated: 21-08-2025 PR No.- 360195 is hereby cancelled on account of unavoidable reasons.

Fresh tender will be invited soon.

Sd/-
Director
(Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs)

PR.NO.364224 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs(25-26):D

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

Ugrana Bhavana, No.43, Primrose Road, Bengaluru - 560025
Phone: 080-29533679, Fax: 080-29533673 email:mdkswc2018@gmail.com

No:KSWC/ADM/09/Veh-Ten/2025-26/1392 Dated: 15.10.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation has invited short-term e-tender from through KPP portal for the procurement of 07 vehicles (AC) required for the head office of the corporation on monthly rental basis for a period of one year from an eligible organization on outsourced basis. The details are as follows.

Calendar of events

Tenders submission begins date:	16-10-2025
Pre tender bid meeting date:	18-10-2025 at 11.30 A.M
The last date for submission of tenders:	27-10-2025 upto 12.15 P.M
Date of opening the Technical bid:	28-10-2025 at 12.30 P.M.
Date of opening the Financial bid:	29-10-2025 at 12.45 P.M.

For more details, the tenderer may refer to e-procurement website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the office helpline +91-8046010000 / +91-8068948777.

Sd/-
Managing Director

DIPR/CP/3293/CCL/2025-26

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)

JUIDCO BHAWAN, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI-834001, JHARKHAND.
Ph No.: +91-651-2225878,
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752,
e-mail Id-pdt.juidco@gmail.com,juidcolimited@gmail.com

Tender Cancellation Notice

NIT No – JUIDCO Ltd/NIT/DPR-PMC/SWM/HC/25/657
Tender ID – 2025_UDD_102016_1
PR No. – 354878

Project Title - "Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of Consultant for providing Consultancy service for Preparation of DPR of Solid Waste Management (SWM) Project and Project Monitoring Consultancy (PMC) at Chattarpur and Hariharhganj"
The tender having details as mentioned above is cancelled due to unavoidable reasons. All bidders are therefore requested to wait for future correspondence regarding fresh tender.

Sd/-
Project Director (Tech)
JUIDCO Ltd.

PR 364183 (Urban Development and Housing) 25-26 (D)

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ka.bengaluru.urban.dudc@gmail.com
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–22211372/352

ಸಂ: ಕೆ.ಎಲ್.ಎಲ್.ಡಿ.ಎಸ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿ.ಆರ್/01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.10.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಸಂಸತ್ ಸದಸ್ಯರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಶಾಸಕರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು 3ನೇ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ತಪಾಸಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು (Third Party) ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರಿಂದ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

NAME OF WORK:- Providing Consultancy Services as 3rd Party (Third Party) Inspection for all Development & Maintenance Works, Procurement of Goods & Services Works under MPLADS & KLLADS (MISC.) funds & any other grants for the year 2025-26 (including spill over works of 2024-25) in Bangalore Urban District for ANEKAL, BENGALURU NORTH, BENGALURU SOUTH, BENGALURU EAST, BENGALURU CITY AND MPLAD/KLLADS/MLC'S AND OTHER FUND OF THE DISTRICTS. Estimated Amount-114/- CRORES. INDENT NO: RD/2025-26/SE0469-**Call-2.**

3ನೇ ತನಿಖಾ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ತಪಾಸಣೆ ಮಾಡಲು (Third Party) ನೀಡುವ ಅಂದಾಜು ವೆಚ್ಚ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ): 69.50 ಲಲಕ್ಷಗಳು. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: 1.39 ಲಕ್ಷ. ಕಾಲಾವಧಿ: ಬಿಡ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳ ರಿತ್ಯ.

1) ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ ಹಾಗೂ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–10–2025 ಸಂಜೆ 3.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–10–2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–10–2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.10 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 4) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31–10–2025 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 5) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/3282/ಸ್ಪ್ಯಾನ್/2025–26

KARNATAKA STATE MINERALS CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office : TTMC 'A' Block 5th Floor, BMTC Building, KH Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027.
Phone: 080-22278813/14/15/16, Fax : 080-22213172
Website: https://ksmc.karnataka.gov.in

KSMCL/CIVIL/SIOM/R&R/92/2025-26/1968 Date: 14.10.2025

e-TENDER INVITATION

KSMCL has invited e-tenders for eligible contractors/ agencies for Repair and Reconstruction of damaged for R&R structures at Subbarayanahalli Iron Ore Mine under Sandur Division of Bellary District.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

1.	Downloading of Tender document from e-portal	From 15.10.2025
2.	Last date for submission of Tender through e-portal	30.10.2025 Up to 5.00 PM
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	03.11.2025 At 11.00 AM
4.	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,50,000/- (Rs. Two lakhs Fifty thousand Only)

Tender document may be downloaded from e-procurement, GOK platform website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Department: MML. Contact for any support e-procurement Call helpdesk: 080-46010000/68948777

Sd/-
General Manager (P)

DIPR/CP/3280/AKAR/2025-26

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION
Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society

Arogya Soudha, 1st Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 23
Ph: 080-23113588

No.: NHM/SPMU/HR/Recruitment-State/Notification/50/2025-26(E-1127145) Date: 14.10.2025

Walk-In- Interview for various posts under NHM

The Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society invites eligible candidates for Walk-In-Interview for the various vacant posts under National Health Mission. The posts are temporary and purely on contract basis. For detailed information login to **www.hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in & nhm.karnataka.gov.in** address.

Walk-In-Interview has been scheduled on **10.11.2025 @ 11.00 AM**, In the office of Chief Administrative Officer, National Health Mission, 1st Floor West wing, Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, 1st Cross, Bengaluru-560023.

Sl. No.	Programme Name	Name of the Post	Number of Posts	Reservation Category
1	TB/NTEP/ RNTCP/NTCP	Technical Officer Procurement & Logistics	01	UR
2		Medical Officer	01	UR
3	RCH	PIP Consultant	01	UR
4		HR Consultant	01	UR
5		Programme Assistant	04	SC-Cat(A)-Others GM-W, ST-(R)-Others, GM-PWD
6	E-Health	IT Consultant	01	UR
7		Programmer/Operational Manager	02	SC-Cat (A)-Others, GM-W
8	RBSK/RKSK	RKSK Consultant	01	UR
9		RBSK Consultant	01	UR
10	Family Welfare	Procurement Officer- FPLMIS	01	UR
11	Immunization	Vaccine Logistic Manager	01	UR
12	Integrate Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)	Finance Consultant	01	UR
13	National Urban Health Mission [NUHM]	Programme Manager	01	UR
14		Consultant Monitoring & Evaluation	01	UR
15		MIS Data Manager	01	UR
16	Child Health [CH]	State SNCU Clinical Care Coordinator	01	UR
17	National Oral Health Programme (NOHP)	Oral Health Consultant	01	UR
18	Maternal Health [MH]	Consultant MH	01	UR
19	National Leprosy Eradication Programme [NLEP]	State Leprosy Consultant	01	UR

**Candidates will not be allowed after scheduled time.

Sd/-
Mission Director
National Health Mission

DIPR/CP/3292/SA/2025-26

JHARKHAND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
(Govt. of Jharkhand Undertaking)

JUIDCO BHAWAN, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI, JHARKHAND
Ph. No.: +91-651-2225878, Mob. No.: +91 9471006062
E-mail Id-juidcolimited@gmail.com
CIN: U45200JH2013SGC001752

Notice Inviting Tender
3rd Tender Call

NIT No.: JUIDCO/ NIT/DPR-PMC/SWM/HC/25/ 668
Dated:15.10.2025

1.	Name of the work	"Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of Consultant for providing Consultancy services for Preparation of DPR of Solid Waste Management (SWM) Project and Project Monitoring Consultancy (PMC) at Chattarpur and Hariharganj."
2.	Mode of Bid Submission	e-tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
3.	Tender Fee and Earnest Money to be submitted online	Tender document fee: Rs 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand)only – Non-Refundable. Bid Security : Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rupees Two lakh only), to be paid online.
4.	Date / Time of Publication of Tender on Website	15.10.2025; 17.00hrs
6.	Last Date / Time of Bid Submission	29.10.2025; 17.00hrs
7.	Date/Time of Bid Opening	30.10.2025; 17.00hrs
8.	Name and Address of office inviting Tender.	Jharkhand Urban Infrastructure Development Company Ltd, JUIDCO Bhawan, Kutchery Chowk, Ranchi-834001
9.	Helpline No. of e-Procurement Cell	+91 651 2225878

Note: Only e-tenders will be accepted.
Further details are available on Jharkhand Government e-procurement website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Project Director (Tech.)
JUIDCO Ltd., Ranchi

PR 364215 Urban Development and Housing(25-26).D

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client intends to purchase an undivided share of 25,543 square feet of saleable built up area forming part of **Unit Nos.201, 202** of the 2nd floor and **Unit Nos.401 and 402** of the 4th floor along with the exclusive right to use 35 car parking spaces in Tower B of the project known as **'Centennial'**, constructed on land bearing Survey Nos.74 & 77, comprising of Plot Nos.8A, 8B, 8C & 8D, situated at Doddanekundi Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Whitefield, Bangalore East Taluk along with proportionate undivided share of land measuring 12,329.64 square feet in the above described land.

The aforesaid undivided share of 25,543 square feet of saleable built-up area in 2nd and 4th floors along with proportionate undivided share of land measuring 12,329.64 square feet and exclusive right to use 35 car parking spaces in Tower B of 'Centennial', are together referred to as the ("**Schedule Property**"). The Schedule Property is owned by Centennial Infrastructure Development Private Limited ("**Company**") and has been more fully described in the schedule below.

Any person/s, entity, firm, banks, institution (corporate or otherwise) or any individual having any claim/s including any right, title, interest, charge, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, should bring the same to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made, together with supporting documents within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of this notice, failing which such claim shall be considered to have been unconditionally waived and/or given up and our client shall be entitled to complete any transaction in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the period stipulated above shall not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

An undivided share of 25,543 square feet of saleable built up area forming part of **Unit Nos.201, 202** of the 2nd floor and **Unit Nos.401 and 402** of the 4th floor and the exclusive right to use 35 car parking spaces, in Tower B of the project known as **'Centennial'**, constructed on land bearing Survey Nos.74 & 77, comprising of Plot Nos.8A, 8B, 8C & 8D, situated at Doddanekundi Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Whitefield, Bangalore East Taluk along with proportionate undivided share of land measuring 12,329.64 square feet and bounded as follows:

East by : Private Property;
West by : Main Road;
North by : Road;
South by: Road.

Date : 16-10-2025
Place : Bengaluru

Arjun K Perikal
Advocate
Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co.
Prestige Sterling Square, Level 2
State Bank of India Road
Bengaluru – 560 001
Email: arjun.perikal@amsshardul.com

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

CORRIGENDUM

No. PCMM/CLW/HWH/E- Procurement/ CORRIGENDUM/25/29, Dated: 10.10.2025. The following Corrigendum of E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. **Sl. No.: [01]. Tender Notice No.: Sl. No. 305** of PCMM/CLW/HWH/ E-Procurement/50 Dated: 24/09/2025. **Tender No.: 14252953B. Tender Opening Date:** Tender Opening Date is to be read as **"31/10/2025"** instead of existing entry.

PR1/225 PCMM/CLW/Howrah

Like us on : www.facebook.com/clwrailways

EASTERN RAILWAY

Open E-Tender Notice No. : F/CR/ WC/123, dtd. 11.10.2025. Chief Workshop Manager, Eastern Railway Locomotive Workshop, Jamalpur, Dist. – Munger, Bihar, Pin-811214 invites e-tenders from tenderer who have proven experience and capabilities with adequate financial and technical resources for the following work within prescribed time limit : **Tender Case No.** : F/CR/WC/ 123. **Name of work:** Overhauling and commissioning of 9 sets power pack (1 no. Cummins engine model N 855 R & 1 no. Hindustan Transmission (Allision) model CRT-5633 of JMP make M-IV tower car and 8 nos. Cummins engine model NT 855 R & 8 nos. Hindustan Transmission (Avtec) model CRT-5633 of Phooltas make M-IV tower car. **Tender value** : Rs. 4,42,65,182.44. **Bid Security** : Rs. 3,71,300/-. **Cost of Tender Document** : Nil (As per clause 03 Tenders for works of Part I of GCC, April 2022). **Completion date of work** : The entire work shall be completed within 24 months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance. However, delivery of each overhauled power pack should be within 45 days from date of collection of power pack. **Validity of offer:** 60 days. **Tender closing date & time** : 03.11.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Tender document will be available on **www.ireps.gov.in** Definition of "Similar Nature of Work": The tenderer should be either OEM of engine/drive of any make used in tower wagons of Railway/Metro Rail or their authorised Dealer, having experience in repair/overhauling of engine/drive of tower wagons of Railway/Metro Rail.

(MISC-234/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at Website
www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway
@easternrailwayheadquarter

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-Open Tender Notice

E-Open Tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: **[A] Sl. No.: [01]. Tender No.:MW_P_73_AMC_Jyoti_2025. Name of Work:** Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Jyoti Make CNC Horizontal Machining Centre with Automatic Pallet Changer (Machine No. 08/1902/01) at HMS-08 in CLW/Chittaranjan for a period of 02 years. **Tender Value (Rupees): ₹44,84,000.00. Cost of Tender Document (Rupees): Nil. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees): ₹89,700.00.Period of Completion:** 02 years. **Date of Closing: 25-10-2025 at 11:00 hrs.**

AWM/Plant-I/CLW/Chittaranjan

[B] Sl. No.: [01].Tender No.: MW_P_73_ AMC_LLJ_2. Name of Work : One-time Repair & Renovation of 03 Sets of Loco Lifting Jacks followed by Annual Maintenance Contract for a period of 02 years after the expiry of Warranty Period of 01 year for 03 Sets of Loco Lifting Jacks with Transformer Lifting Gearbox and Trolley at Bay-0, Bay-1, Bay-2 of Shop-16 & 19 in CLW Chittaranjan. **Tender Value (Rupees): ₹49,37,800.00. Cost of Tender Document (Rupees): Nil. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees): ₹98,800.00. Period of Completion:** 39 months. **Date of Closing : 29-10-2025 at 11:00 hrs.** NOTE (For both A & B): **(i)** Complete details can be seen in the Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in. (ii) Contact No.: 0341-2525566. (iii) Email Id:** dycmeplantclw@yahoo.com

PR7/223 AWM/Plant-II/CLW/Chittaranjan

Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Open e-Tender Notice No. DRM/Works/SC/128-138/2025/OT, Dt. 10.10.2025

PUB/1296/25

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works up to 14.00 hours on 14.11.2025

Sl. No: 1, **e-Tender No.:** 128_W_SC_25_OT, **Name of the work:** SC-WD section: Proposed Augmentation of RC-I, II, III of Rajashree cement works taking off from MALKHID Road station including yard modification (Common User Facility at MQR Yard) (Deposit work), **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 9,13,98,251/- **EMD in Rs.:** 6,07,000/- **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period period in Months:** 36, **Works considered similar in nature towards standard eligibility criteria:** A-1: Any Civil Engineering work Consisting of execution of earth work work in formation and any type of bridges.

Sl. No: 2, **e-Tender No.:** 129_N_SC_25_OT, **Name of the work:** BPQ-KZJ section: SSE/P.Way/MCI, PDPL & N/KZI Provision of Drains, Pathways, Standardisation of Dead ends / Removal of muck etc in connection with safety related yard improvement & upgradation works at various yards under ADEN/RDM sub division. (Two packet system), **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 12,15,01,019/- **EMD in Rs.:** 7,57,500/- **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period period in Months:** 36, **Works considered similar in nature towards standard eligibility criteria:** C-2: Any Civil Engineering Works (excluding Track works / Zonal works).

Sl. No: 3, **e-Tender No.:** 130_N_SC_25_OT, **Name of the work:** BPQ-KZJ section: SSE/P.Way/MAGH, SKZR & BPA Provision of Drains, Pathways, Standardisation of Dead ends, Removal of muck etc in connection with safety related yard improvement & upgradation works at various yards under ADEN/BPA sub division., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 6,85,14,563/- **EMD in Rs.:** 4,92,600/- **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period period in Months:** 36, **Works considered similar in nature towards standard eligibility criteria:** C-2: Any Civil Engineering Works (excluding Track works / Zonal works).

Sl. No: 4, **e-Tender No.:** 131_N_SC_25_OT, **Name of the work:** BPQ-KZJ section: SSE/P.way/MCI, PDPL & NKZJ Proposed safety related yard improvement & upgradation works at various yards under ADEN/RDM sub division., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 7,64,77,045/- **EMD in Rs.:** 5,32,400/- **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period period in Months:** 45 (Days), **Works considered similar in nature towards standard eligibility criteria:** F-1: Any Railway track work including track maintenance work.

Sl. No: 5, **e-Tender No.:** 132_N_SC_25_OT, **Name of the work:** BPQ-KZJ section: SSE/P.Way/MAGH, SKZR & BPA proposed safety related yard improvement & upgradation works at various yards under ADEN/BPA sub division., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 6,16,44,840/- **EMD in Rs.:** 4,58,300/- **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period period in Months:** 45 (Days), **Works considered similar in nature towards standard eligibility criteria:** F-1: Any Railway track work including track maintenance work.

Sl. No: 6, **e-Tender No.:** 133_NW_SC_25_OT, **Name of the work:** VKB-PRLI Section: Proposed safety related track works and miscellaneous track works (Other than safety related track works) from Km: 64 to 129 on SL line between ZB-BHLK stations in SSE/P.way/BIDR section under ADEN/BIDR Sub division., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 1,38,52,996/- **EMD in Rs.:** 2,19,300/- **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period period in Months:** 45 (Days), **Works considered similar in nature towards standard eligibility criteria:** F-1: Any Railway track work including track maintenance work.

Sl. No: 7, **e-Tender No.:** 134_NW_SC_25_OT, **Name of the work:** BIDR-GR Section: Proposed safety related track works and miscellaneous track works (Other than safety related works) From Km: 0.00 to 97.70 on SL line between KHNP-TJSP stations in SSE/P.Way/HMBD section under ADEN/BIDR Sub division., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 1,16,29,930/- **EMD in Rs.:** 2,08,200/- **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period period in Months:** 45 (Days), **Works considered similar in nature towards standard eligibility criteria:** F-1: Any Railway track work including track maintenance work.

Sl. No: 8, **e-Tender No.:** 135_NW_SC_25_OT, **Name of the work:** VKB-PRLI Section: Proposed safety related track works and miscellaneous track works (Other than safety related works) from Km: 129 to 200 on SL line between VKB -PRLI stations in SSE/P.Way/UDGR section under ADEN/BIDR Sub division., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 1,13,85,840/- **EMD in Rs.:** 2,07,000/- **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period period in Months:** 45 (Days), **Works considered similar in nature towards standard eligibility criteria:** F-1: Any Railway track work including track maintenance work.

Sl. No: 9, **e-Tender No.:** 136_NW_SC_25_OT, **Name of the work:** VKB-PRLI Section: Proposed safety related track works and miscellaneous track works (Other than safety related works) from Km: 200.920 to 269.200 on SL line between LTRR-PRLI stations in SSE/P.Way/PRLI section under ADEN/BIDR Sub division., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 1,34,39,165/- **EMD in Rs.:** 2,17,200/- **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period period in Months:** 45 (Days), **Works considered similar in nature towards standard eligibility criteria:** F-1: Any Railway track work including track maintenance work.

Sl. No: 10, **e-Tender No.:** 137_NW_SC_25_OT, **Name of the work:** PDPL-NZB Section: Proposed safety related track works and miscellaneous track works (Other than safety related works) from Km: 0 to 83 on SL lines between PDPL - LPJL stations in SSE/P.way/KRMR section under ADEN/ KRMR Sub division., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 1,36,53,244/- **EMD in Rs.:** 2,18,300/- **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period period in Months:** 45 (Days), **Works considered similar in nature towards standard eligibility criteria:** F-1: Any Railway track work including track maintenance work.

Sl. No: 11, **e-Tender No.:** 138_NW_SC_25_OT, **Name of the work:** PDPL-NZB Section: Proposed safety related track works and miscellaneous track works (Other than safety related works) from Km: 83 to 178 on SL line between LPJL - NZB stations in SSE/P.way/ARMU section under ADEN/KRMR Sub division., **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 1,37,05,986/- **EMD in Rs.:** 2,18,600/- **Completion period in Months:** 12, **Maintenance period period in Months:** 45 (Days), **Works considered similar in nature towards standard eligibility criteria:** F-1: Any Railway track work including track maintenance work.

1. Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered.
2. Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at **ireps.gov.in** which can be downloaded, can be Participated and can view any modifications if any.
3. All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit EMD through online payments / BG only.
4. The tender notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Sr.DEN/Co-ordination, Secunderabad Division, South Central Railway, & Secunderabad which can be seen on all working days.
5. The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.
6. All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit along with their offer.

A1631 **Sr.DEN/Co-ordination/SC Secunderabad**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

---

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME
STATION HQ (ECHS CELL) BELAGAVI

Phone No.: 94838 89065, Email: echsstationhqbelgaum@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites applications to engage **Officer-in-Charge (OIC) and Medical Specialist** on contractual basis in **ECHS Polyclinic Dharwad and Bagalkot** for a period of **Twelve / Eleven Months renewed for additional period of one year / till attaining the maximum age, subject to performance of candidates / other conditions** according to the criteria as mentioned against each post :

Appointment	Minimum Qualification	Work Experience	No. of Vacancy ECHS Polyclinic Dharwad	No. of Vacancy ECHS Polyclinic Bagalkot	Fixed Remune-ration
Officer-in-Charge (OIC)	Graduate	Min. 5 years work experience in Health Care institutions or Managerial Positions Retired Commissioned Officer's from Defence Services (Army, Air Force and Navy only)	01	-	95,000/-
Medical Specialist	MD / MS in specialty concerned / DNB	Min 03 yrs in the subject concerned other Post Graduation	-	01	1,30,000/-

2. **For Terms & Conditions, Application Form & Remuneration:** Kindly see our website **www.echs.gov.in** For additional details, please contact Station Headquarters (ECHS Cell) Belagavi at Mob. No. **94838 89065**. Also, approach concerned ECHS Polyclinic for details. **Preference will be given to the Ex-Servicemen.**
3. **Last date of receipt of application as per format given at our website:** Application as per requisite format alongwith self attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Educational Qualifications and Work Experience will be submitted BY POST / BY HAND to **OIC ECHS Cell, Station Headquarters (ECHS Cell), Belagavi - 590 009** by **31 Oct 2025 in duplicate** by post. Any application received after **31 Oct 2025** will not be accepted. **No applications will be received through E-mail.**
4. **Interview Date, Timing and Venue:** Candidates must reach **Station HQ Belagavi at 0900 hrs on 14 November 2025** for Interview to be held between **0930 hrs to 1330 hrs.** Candidates must bring all the original certificates and mark sheets of 10th / Matric, 10+2 & Graduation / Post Graduation / Diploma / Course, Work Experience and Discharge Book, PPO, Service Records and 02 x PP size Colour Photographs at the time of interview. **No TA/DA is admissible.**

Note: Selected candidate for key appointments will have to undergo **10 days of overlap training period (without pay)** for the purpose of **On the Job Training and Handing / Taking Over** at respective ECHS Polyclinics under own arrangements.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/13/25-26 Date: 15.10.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK KPPP Only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru **(Purchaser)** invites tender from eligible tenderers for the supply of goods mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for supply of goods through KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per standard bid documents. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Name of the Work	Estimate amount of works (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD Amount in Rs.	Duration
Procurement of truck mounted vacuum based mechanical sweeping machine of minimum capacity not less than 5 cum for sweeping of local streets in order to reduce the dust in BBMP (now GBA) limits.	2015.00	1,00,000	3 Months

Calendar of Events : (1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **28.10.2025 upto 17.30 Hrs. in KPP Portal. (2)** Pre bid Meeting: **29.10.2025 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore. **(3)** Last date for submission of the bids: **18.11.2025 upto 16.00 Hrs** (3) Date of opening of Technical bid on : **19.11.2025 at 16.30 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3
BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3296/SSC/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524 124, TIRUPATI DIST. (A.P)

Advertisement No.SDSC SHAR/RMT/01/2025 Dated:16.10.2025

Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota (SDSC SHAR), Space Port of India invites Applications in ONLINE mode to fill up the following Posts including other constituent ISRO Centres as detailed below:

Name of the Post/ Pay Level	Discipline & No.of Vacancies	Age limit (as on 14.11.2025)
Scientist/ Engineer 'SC'- Level 10 (Rs.56,100 – Rs.1,77,500/-)	Machine Design-01, Industrial Engineering -03	18-30 Years
	Electrical & Electronics Engineering -02, Atmospheric Science/Meteorology-01, Analytical Chemistry-01, Chemical Engineering-15	18-28 Years
Technical Assistant- Level 7 (Rs.44,900-Rs.1,42,400)	Chemical Engineering-04, Mechanical Engineering-11, Automobile Engineering-05, Electrical Engineering / Electrical & Electronics Engineering-02, Civil Engineering -01, Computer Science & Engineering-02, Electronics & Communication Engineering-03	18-35 Years
Scientific Assistant-Level 7 (Rs.44,900-Rs.1,42,400)	Chemistry-01, Computer Science-01, Fine Arts (Photography)/Visual Arts (Cinematography) -01	18-35 Years
Library Assistant 'A'-Level 7 (Rs.44,900-Rs.1,42,400)	Library Assistant 'A' -01	18-35 Years
Nurse 'B' -Level 7 (Rs.44,900-Rs.1,42,400)	Nurse 'B'-01	18-35 Years
Radiographer-A-Level 4 (Rs.25,500-81,100)	Radiographer 'A'- 01	18-35 Years
Technician 'B'-Level 3 (Rs. 21,700-69,100)	Chemical-13, Electrician -08, Fitter-21, Civil Engineering Assistant -04, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning-05, Pump Operator Cum Mechanic -01, Photography/Digital Photography-01 Electronic Mechanic-12, Boiler Attendant -02, Diesel Mechanic-01, Instrument Mechanic-01, Computer Science-01	18-35 Years
Draughtsman 'B'- Level 3 (Rs. 21,700-69,100)	Civil -02	18-35 Years
Cook/ Fireman 'A'/ LVD 'A' Level 2 (Rs. 19,900 – Rs.63,200/-)	Cook -03, Light Vehicle Driver 'A' -03	18-35 Years
	Fireman 'A' – 06,	18-25 Years

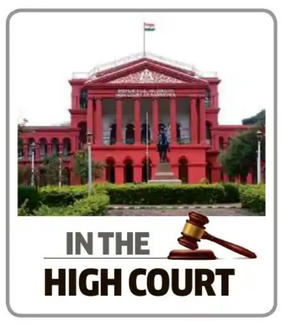
For detailed advertisement and to apply online, please visit website https://www.shar.gov.in/ (or) https://apps.shar.gov.in/. Last date for receipt of applications: 14.11.2025

cbc49109/11/0002/2526

For Online Classified Booking
Name Change / Education / Property / Job / Services & many more Log on to : dhclassifieds.com

HC restrains 'strip-and-search' method in transgender survey

'Any info collected during survey must be kept confidential'



BENGALURU, DHNS

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday restrained government officials from using the "strip-and-search" method for identification purposes during the ongoing transgender survey.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha passed the interim order in response to a PIL petition filed by the Anita Humanitarian Foundation.

"..the government of Karnataka and the persons conducting the survey shall ensure that before calling upon transgenders to participate in the survey, they are informed that the same is voluntary... We restrain the respondents from conducting any identification by strip and search method till the next date of hearing. We further direct that any information collected during the survey be kept strictly confidential and not be disseminated," the court said.

The bench also directed the Department of Social Welfare to file an affidavit within three days detailing measures to ensure confidentiality of information collected during the Gender Minority Survey, which commenced on September 15.

The petitioner challenged the government notifications for conducting the survey, claiming that it is ultra vires the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, and violates Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.

The counsel representing the petitioner submitted that during the survey, transgender persons are taken to hospitals and subjected to the "strip-and-search" method for identification by other transgender persons who may not claim similar gender. The counsel argued that a survey is not required because transgender persons have already been issued identity cards in the state.

Besides seeking the immediate stalling of the survey, the petitioner demanded that any personal data collected under the impugned survey should not be disclosed, published or shared with any third party and that it be securely destroyed under the supervision of the high court or an appointed authority.

The petitioner also sought a public apology from the state to the transgender community for the "illegal, invasive and unconstitutional" process.

AP's Google incentive package is economic disaster: Priyank; BJP-JDS targets minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday said Andhra Pradesh's largesse to tech giant Google, which has announced a massive $15 billion AI data centre project at Vizag, was "an economic disaster".

Priyank said this while reacting to the Opposition BJP and JD(S), which slammed the Congress government over Karnataka missing out on Google's project.

"What the BJP and JD(S) are conveniently hiding is the fact that Andhra Pradesh is giving (Google) an incentive worth Rs 22,000 crore, 25% subsidy on land, 25% subsidy on water tariff, free electricity and 100% reimbursement of state GST. Can Andhra Pradesh afford this economic disaster?" Priyank said.

"If Karnataka had done this, we'd be accused of pushing the state towards bankruptcy," Priyank said.

The minister maintained that Bengaluru was far ahead of Hyderabad. "We have IT services exports worth Rs 4.5 lakh crore against Hyderabad's Rs 2 lakh crore. The difference is huge," he said.

"Bengaluru is among the top five cities when it comes to AI. We're the fourth-largest technology cluster. We have a quantum roadmap. Do they (Andhra Pradesh) have it? We have Google's largest campus called Ananta," Priyank contended.

Following the announcement, the BJP targeted Priyank, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar.

"By attracting Google to Karnataka, 30,000 people would have gotten jobs and the state could have earned Rs 10,000 crore. Does Priyank have the capability? Shivakumar lacks the vision and Siddaramaiah is only worried about retaining his job after November," the BJP said in a tweet.

The JD(S) accused Priyank of "neglect" and said Google's choosing Andhra Pradesh was "a big blow" to Karnataka.

राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी
National Testing Agency
Excellence in Assessment
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Government of India
An Autonomous Organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, GoI

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR INVITING ONLINE APPLICATION FOR SCHEME FOR RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN HIGH CLASSES IN TARGETED AREAS SHRESHTA (NETS) -2026

National Testing Agency is going to conduct SHRESHTA (NETS)-2026 on behalf of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for admission to Class 9 and 11 for Scheduled Caste (SC) students for the Academic Year 2026-27. The Shreshta is a Scheme which provides for high quality education for meritorious Scheduled Castes (SCs) students only.

Submission of online Application Form	10.10.2025 to 30.10.2025
Date of exam	In the month of December, 2025
Mode of exam	Pen & Paper mode (OMR)
Paper pattern	Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Information Bulletin with all other necessary details with regard to the registration for examination are available on the Official Website(s) of the National Testing Agency on www.nta.ac.in & https://exams.nta.nic.in/shreshta/

Interested candidates are advised to apply on or before the last date and regularly visit above Official websites for latest updates.

In case any candidate faces difficulty in applying for SHRESHTA-2026, she/he may contact on 011 - 40759000 / 011 - 69227700 or e-mail at shreshta@nta.ac.in

cbc21354/12/0003/2526

Sd/-
(Director)

राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी
National Testing Agency
Excellence in Assessment
An Autonomous Organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, GoI

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR INVITING ONLINE APPLICATION FOR ALL INDIA SAINIK SCHOOLS ENTRANCE EXAM (AISSEE-2026)

National Testing Agency is going to conduct AISSEE-2026 on behalf of Sainik Schools Society (Under Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India) for admission to Class 6 and Class 9 in Sainik School/ New Sainik Schools across the country, for the Academic Year 2026-27.

Submission of online Application Form	10.10.2025 to 30.10.2025
Date of exam	In the month of January, 2026
Mode of exam	Pen & Paper mode (OMR)
Paper pattern	Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)

Information Bulletin with all other necessary details with regard to the registration for examination are available on the Official Website(s) of the National Testing Agency on www.nta.ac.in & https://exams.nta.nic.in/sainik-school-society/

Interested candidates are advised to apply on or before the last date and regularly visit above Official websites for latest updates.

In case any candidate faces difficulty in applying for AISSEE 2026, she/he may contact on 011 - 40759000 / 011 - 69227700 or e-mail at aissee@nta.ac.in

cbc21354/12/0004/2526

Sd/-
(Director)

Grand Deepawali Sale
ಗ್ರಾಂಡ್ ರಾಜಸ್ಥಾನಿ ಸೇಲ್
THE GRAND
RAJASTHANI
EXHIBITION
Art from the Heart
ಒಂದೇ ಸೂರಿನಡಿ ಭಾರತದಾದ್ಯಂತದ ಕೈಮಗ್ಗ, ಕರಕುಶಲ ಮತ್ತು ಆಭರಣಗಳ ವಿಶೇಷ ಮಾರಾಟ.
Exclusive Sale of
Handloom, Handicraft & Jewellery
Artisans from all India under One roof
ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಕಮ್ ಮಾರಾಟ
EXHIBITION
CUM SALE
ONCE IN A YEAR
Free Puppet Show/ Live Dhol
Handicraft Handloom, Bedsheet Jewellery, Ikkat Tops & pants, Sarees, Home Decorative
ಕರಕುಶಲ ಕೈಮಗ್ಗ, ಬೆಡ್‌ಶೀಟ್ ಆಭರಣ ಇಕ್ಕತ್ ಟಾಪ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ಯಾಂಟ್, ಸೀರೆಗಳು, ಮನೆ ಅಲಂಕಾರಿಕ
Sale is from 8th October to 21st October 2025
ಮಾರಾಟವು ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ 08 ರಿಂದ ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ 21, 2025 ರವರೆಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.
Free Entry Car Parking
ಶ್ರೀ ಸೋಮೇಶ್ವರ ಸಭಾ ಭವನ
ಆರ್‌ಬಿಐ ಲೇಔಟ್, ಸಿಎ 03, ಕೊತ್ತನೂರು ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ರಿಲಿಯನ್ಸ್ ಮಾರ್ಟ್ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ, ಜೆ.ಪಿ. ನಗರ, 7ನೇ ಹಂತ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು - 560 078. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
SRI SOMESHWARA SABHA BHAVANA
RBI Layout, CA 03, Kothnur Main Road
Next to Reliance Mart, J.P. Nagar, 7th Phase
Bengaluru - 560 078. Karnataka
8951899961
All Debit/Credit Card Accepted
Timings : 10.00 AM - 9.00 PM
Ministry of Textiles Govt of India

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KFCSC
ಅನ್ನಭಾಗ್ಯ
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS & LEGAL METROLOGY
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
WORLD
FOOD DAY
CELEBRATIONS – 2025
Theme: "Hand in Hand for Better Foods and a Better Future"
Date: 16.10.2025, Thursday, Time: 10.00 A M
Venue: Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
DON'T WASTE FOOD
FOR POOR IT'S GOLD
Sri K.H. Muniyappa, Hon'ble Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs and
Sri B.G. Govindappa, President, Food Corporation Ltd
at the departmental programme.
Manoj Jain IAS
Government Secretary
V.V. Jyotsna IAS
Commissioner
Jagadeesh M.K. KAS
Managing Director
Food Corporation Limited
KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT
GUARANTEE GOVERNMENT
Shakthi
FREE BUS Service for women across Karnataka
Anna Bhagya
10kg Free Food Grains (per month)
Gruha Jyothi
Up to 200 Units of Free Electricity to each home
Gruha Lakshmi
₹2000 per month to female head of the family
Yuva Nidhi
₹3000 Per month for Graduates
₹1500 Per month for Diploma Holders
As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Change in CM & Cabinet rejig media creation: Patil

BALLARI, DHNS: Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil on Wednesday dismissed media speculation about change in chief minister and Cabinet rejig terming it a 'media creation'.

Sharan Prakash Patil

"There is no Cabinet reshuffle or rejig for now. Even the chief minister has clarified... It's all created by the media. We did not discuss politics at the dinner meeting called by Siddaramaiah, he told reporters here when asked about the talks of leadership change and Cabinet reshuffle.

"Priyank Kharge has never said that Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) should be banned. All he said was the activities of the RSS should be banned on government land. The chief minister has sent Priyank's letter to the chief secretary to examine it," Patil said.

"Additional security will be provided to Priyank, if need be, in the wake of threat to his life. Our government is capable of solving this issue," the minister said.

Will probe threats to Priyank, says HM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Wednesday said the police will conduct an inquiry into threat calls received by IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge.

"We'll view this seriously. We'll do an inquiry on who made the threats and the source. Such threats to a minister are wrong," Parameshwara said. "We'll verify the origin of these threats and who's behind them. Based on that, we'll take action," he added.

Earlier in the day, Priyank released a video in which he receives a call from an unknown person hurling abuses at him.

"I said that RSS is working to fill the minds of youth and children with filth. Here's a small example of what the filth looks like. This is just a sample of the threats and abusive calls that I have been receiving continuously for the past few days," Priyank said. "Is insulting mothers and sisters by calling them names and in the most despicable way the culture taught at shakhas (camps)?"

"If I file a complaint, the person who made the threat call may go to jail. But those who filled his mind with poison will be roaming free," Priyank said.

"Ours is not a fight against individuals, but against this dirty mentality spread by RSS," he said.

State govt reduces SSLC, PUC pass score from 35 to 33

Pass marks, from Page 1

The minister further said aggregate pass marks will be 206 for the SSLC and 198 for the PUC. In case a student scores the aggregate pass mark but doesn't have the minimum score in one or two subjects (above 30 and below 33), then such students will be declared passed.

The decision has been taken following a dip in SSLC pass percentage last year and also a petition by the Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka. The association had highlighted the "injustice" caused to state board students as other boards were having a minimum pass mark of 33. The petition had cited this as a reason for state board students shifting to other boards at the high school level.

Written agreement, regn must in draft Bill for domestic workers

Max 5% cess from employers to go to welfare fund

BENGALURU, DHNS

TERMS OF BETTERMENT

- Minimum wages mandatory; maximum 48 hrs of work per week
- Domestic workers' advisory board and welfare fund proposed
- 3-month prison term for those violating Act

The draft defines 'domestic worker' as one employed for domestic work either directly or indirectly, or through a contract or a digital platform, who works for remuneration for one or more employers by staying in the household premises or otherwise.

Domestic workers cannot be employed without a written agreement between employers and workers, and employers contravening the provisions of the Act can be punished with a maximum three-month prison term, according to the Karnataka Domestic Workers (Social Security and Welfare) draft bill.

The draft, prepared by the labour department, mandates paying minimum wages and overtime wages to domestic workers.

The bill was publicised on Wednesday and citizens have a month's time to give suggestions and raise objections.

Work hours

The overall working hours per week cannot exceed 48 hours, and a full-day holiday or two staggered half-day holidays should be provided per week, the draft says, adding that they must be eligible for "reasonable working hours," periods of rest, annual leave and maternity benefits.

The draft defines "domestic worker" as one employed for domestic work either directly or indirectly, or through a contract or a digital platform, who works for remuneration for one or more employers by staying in the household premises or otherwise.

It can include part-time or full-time workers, as well as casual, temporary, piece-meal, gig workers and migrant workers.

The draft defines an employer as one who engages domestic workers to perform any work, part-time, full-time, live-in or otherwise, directly or through a recruitment agency or a platform. Employers will include the head of the household, anyone with ultimate control over the household and so on.

The draft bill mandates the registration of domestic workers and employers. As per the draft, if a domestic worker is illiterate and a migrant, the service provider, placement agency and employer must register such domestic worker(s) within a month of the commencement of employment.

While employers have been mandated to register within a month of employing a domestic worker, service providers must register within a month of the commencement of the Act.

In case of a change of employment or migration, the worker shall inform the registering authorities within 30 days of such a change.

Welfare board

The draft mandates the formation of the Karnataka State Domestic Workers Social Security and Welfare Board, which will administer and monitor the Domestic Workers Social Security and Welfare Fund.

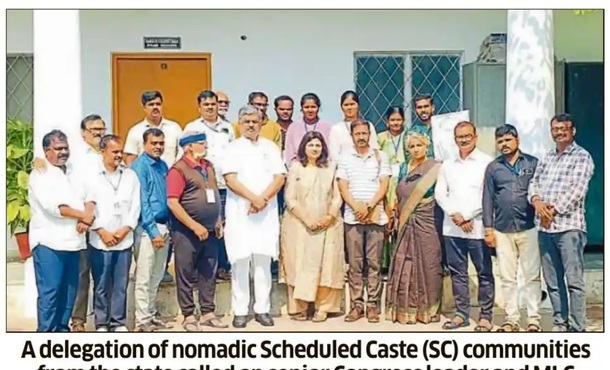
The monetary sources for the fund include fees collected from registration of domestic workers, service providers, placement agencies and employers, up to 5% welfare fee collected from those employing the domestic workers, all fines collected as per the Act, any central or state government grants and so on.

The board will be tri-partite in nature, with equal representation of domestic workers, employers, service providers and placement agencies and government authorities.

Those sending girls/women employees to any place for immoral purposes, abusing or illegally confining domestic workers or providing any child as a domestic worker will serve a prison term of 3-7 years and a fine up to Rs 50,000.

Cong agreed 'in principle' for 1% quota: Nomadic SC leaders

BENGALURU, DHNS



A delegation of nomadic Scheduled Caste (SC) communities from the state called on senior Congress leader and MLC B K Hariprasad in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Representatives of nomadic Scheduled Caste (SC) communities from the state, who have camped in Delhi for nearly 15 days seeking a separate 1% reservation, decided on Wednesday to return home after the Congress agreed "in-principle" to provide 1% reservation for 59 most backward SC communities.

The delegation wasn't able to meet Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, who was in Shimla, and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, who isn't well.

They held "fruitful" discussions with veteran Congressman and MLC B K Hariprasad in Delhi and placed three demands — 1% reservation to 59 communities categorised as 'most backward' by the H N Nagamohan Das Commission, separate corporation for 49 nomadic and semi-nomadic communities that doesn't include Korma and Korcha communities and a comprehensive package for them.

Hariprasad assured the delegation to arrange a meeting immediately after Deepavali with CM Siddaramaiah, Social Welfare Minister Dr H C Mahadevappa and others, where AICC general secretary (Karnataka incharge) Randeep Singh Surjewala, Hariprasad and K Raju, AICC's national coordinator for SC/ST, OBC and minorities department, will be present.

Congress leaders reportedly promised the nomadic community leaders that a meeting with Rahul Gandhi could be arranged if that with the CM doesn't bear fruit.

A press note by Karnataka Federation of Untouchable Nomadic Communities said Hariprasad, on Wednesday, had arranged a conference call with Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, Surjewala and Dr Mahadevappa.

It said Mahadevappa promised to address their problems and requested them to return to the state.

Though the federation decided to come back, they warned that they would travel to Delhi again if their demands weren't met.

Hariprasad told *DH*, "They placed three demands. I spoke to all leaders concerned. I spoke to Mahadevappa, we have decided to have a meeting with the chief minister and then take a call".

'Hike in overall quota'

He said the government might provide a separate 1% reservation to the nomadic communities by recommending to the union government to hike the overall reservation for SCs in Karnataka from 17% to 18%.

Money laundering: HC bins plea challenging MLA Veerendra's arrest

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court on Wednesday dismissed the petition challenging the arrest of K C Veerendra, Congress MLA from Chitradurga, in connection with a money laundering case linked to illegal online betting and gambling websites.

Justice M I Arun dismissed the petition filed by R D Chaitra, Veerendra's wife.

On July 22, 2025, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) against Veerendra on the basis of seven FIRs registered over 10-15 years. Subsequently, ED registered an addendum ECIR in relation to an FIR registered at Cyber Crime police station, Cyberabad in Telangana and another registered at Harohalli police station in Bengaluru south. The ED arrested Veerendra on August 23.

Justice Arun said though he has upheld the contention of the petitioner in respect of instances wherein FIRs have been either quashed or the accused have been acquitted, the arrest has been upheld in view of the amendment to section 2(1)(u) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) as one FIR (Harohalli police station) is still alive. Section 2(1)(u) expands the expression of "proceeds of crime," including any property which may directly or indirectly be derived or obtained as a result of any criminal activity relatable to the scheduled offence. The court said the action of the authorities in arresting Veerendra is upheld as the agency has clearly explained the reasons to believe in detail stating why they have proceeded against him.

The court said that if the B report filed in the pending FIR were to be accepted by the trial court, the accused would be at liberty to make necessary applications for quashing of proceedings against him. "It is needless to state that observations made are in relation to the case at hand and if the petitioner were to make any application for bail the same would be considered in accordance with law," the court said.

Ceasefire after new Pak-Afghan...

Ceasefire, from Page 1

At least five people were killed and 35 wounded in the explosions in Kabul, an Italian NGO that runs a hospital in the Afghan capital said.

The Taliban government spokesman said an oil tanker and a generator had exploded, sparking fires, although he did not explicitly link the blasts to the clashes with Pakistan.

However, a Pakistani security source said Islamabad had carried out "precision strikes" in the Afghan capital.

Ambulances raced through Kabul and shattered glass from damaged buildings littered the streets. Taliban forces also cordoned off some city streets.

The ceasefire was announced by Islamabad barely an hour later. Taliban authorities in Kabul ordered the army to respect the ceasefire.

Pakistan's military earlier accused the Afghan Taliban of attacking two major border posts in the southwest and northwest.

It said both assaults were repelled, with about 20 Taliban fighters killed in attacks launched near Spin Boldak on the Afghan side of the frontier in southern Kandahar province early on Wednesday.

"Unfortunately, the attack was orchestrated through divided villages in the area, with no regard for the civil population," the military said in a statement.

It also said about 30 more were thought to have been killed in overnight clashes along Pakistan's northwest border.

The Afghan Taliban said 15 civilians were killed and dozens were wounded.

City nurtured you, don't hurt it, DKS tells corporates

DKS, from Page 1

His comments come amidst criticism from industry leaders such as Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and former Infosys director Mohandas Pai, who have frequently highlighted the city's deteriorating infrastructure. "Do not forget the roots that have given you fruit," he said, reminding companies that once operated out of rented spaces and now have their own campuses because of Bengaluru and the ecosystem the government has built. "We are doing our best," he said, adding this is not a communist country like China, where we can demolish properties and widen roads.

He said the government recognizes difficulties faced by people working in IT corridor. "We have merged Mahadevapura and KR Puram into one corporation with 50 wards, even though the population is lower than in other corporations. These two constituencies contribute Rs 1,600 crore in property tax, and under the new system, the entire amount will be spent within the corporation," he said.

He challenged companies to disclose the amount of money they are spending on projects under CSR scheme. "Karnataka is a progressive state. There are 25 lakh people working in Bengaluru, including about 2 lakh foreign nationals. We contribute 39% of the revenue to the central government. I am meeting leaders from different countries who want to set up businesses in Bengaluru. This is the strength of our city. No other city in India can match Bengaluru," he added.

K'taka, NCRTC discuss rapid rail corridors for Bengaluru

RRTS, From Page 1

The NCRTC has also expressed its willingness to prepare detailed project reports (DPRs) and execute and operate these corridors.

"Recently, a team of officials from Karnataka visited the NCRTC headquarters here and held discussions. The team also visited India's first rapid rail corridor, Sarai Kale Khan (Delhi) to Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), and personally experienced the system," sources said.

The NCRTC has offered a similar equity for the joint venture for Karnataka on the model of Delhi–Meerut corridor, which has 60% funding from multilateral agencies, 20% funding each from the Government of India and the state government.

Confirming the development, Heavy Industries and Infrastructure Development Minister M B Patil told *DH* that the state government is keen on decongesting Bengaluru by providing seamless transportation to neighbouring cities.

"Under the decongestion plan, this project is also under discussion. I will hold discussions with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and take a concrete decision soon," Patil said.

"Though the state is developing a suburban railway network, if Namo Bharat corridors offer a better alternative, we may also consider this seriously," he added.

Namo Bharat is India's first RRTS, with maximum operational speeds of up to 160 kmph, offering a fast, comfortable, reliable and safe mode of transport.

This system is different from the conventional railway as it does not operate on a fixed timetable or require a seat reservation.

It is also different from the metro transit as it caters to passengers travelling relatively longer distances with fewer stops and at a higher speed.

"NCRTC also suggested planning TOD or transit-oriented development around the proposed corridors to support structured urban growth and decongest Bengaluru," the sources said.

Deepavali gift: DA hike, supermarkets for govt staff

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ahead of the Deepavali festival, the state government on Wednesday issued an order hiking dearness allowance (DA) for its employees from 12.25% to 14.25% of their basic pay. This will apply to pensioners, too.

The DA hike will be applicable from July 1, 2025, the finance department said in its order.

This is the second DA hike in the current financial year. In May, the government increased DA from 10.75% to 12.25% of basic pay.

Supermarkets for govt employees

In another move, the government announced that it plans to start supermarkets for its employees on the lines of police and army canteens.

The proposed supermarkets will be operated by the state-run Mysore Sales International Ltd (MSIL).

"The initiative aims to make all essential daily-use items available to state government employees at discounted prices," Industries Minister M B Patil said, after holding a preliminary discussion with his officers on this plan.

"Similar canteen facilities are available for defence and para-military personnel. Karnataka has around six lakh government employees, and the proposed plan seeks to benefit their families," Patil said. He added that discussions would be held with the finance department to explore the possibility of availing subsidies or tax exemptions for the initiative.

Patil directed MSIL to submit a detailed feasibility report within a month on setting up the supermarkets. Initially, 4-5 outlets are planned in Bengaluru, expanding later to district headquarters across the state.

The Western Ghats complex, spanning Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, is home to an estimated 11,934 elephants, whereas the Brahmaputra floodplains and the North East are home to 6,559 jumbos in the wild.

Elephant census: Karnataka has highest number of wild jumbos

Overall numbers dropped 25%, but that may be due to more accurate methodologies

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With more than 6,000 roaming in forests, Karnataka houses the maximum number of wild jumbos in India, according to India's latest elephant census report.

It, however, flagged a 25% decline in their number compared to the previous survey carried out eight years ago.

Habitat loss, fragmentation, and increasing human-elephant conflict are driving the decline. "Electrocution and railway collisions cause a significant number of elephant fatalities, while mining and highway construction disrupt habitats, intensifying man-wildlife conflicts," it added.

Overall, the country is home to 22,446 wild elephants, as per the All India Synchronous Elephant Estimation conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, in collaboration with Project Elephant of the Union Environment Ministry.

The Western Ghats complex, spanning Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, is home to an estimated 11,934 elephants, whereas the Brahmaputra floodplains and the North East are home to 6,559 jumbos in the wild.

The number of elephants in the Shivalik hills was 2,062, while the count was 1,891 in Central India and the Eastern Ghats.

Vast stretches of Central and Western India do not have any significant elephant population.

The report warned that the figures reflected deepening pressures on one of India's most iconic animals. "The present distribution of elephants in India represents a mere fraction of their historical range," it said, estimating they now occupy only about 3.5% of the area they once roamed.

State-wise, the number of elephants was maximum in Karnataka (6,013), followed by Assam (4,159), Tamil Nadu (3,136), Kerala (2,785), Uttarakhand (1,792), and Odisha (912), as per the report released earlier this week.

The previous census, conducted in 2017, came up with an estimate of 29,964 elephants in the wild. The 2012 census estimated the presence of over 30,000 elephants.

Scientists involved in the exercise, however, pointed out that the current census was not comparable to the previous records as methodologies were different. Extensive DNA analysis — from dung samples — was used to identify individual animals in the 2021-25 report, whereas the methods employed in the past tended to overestimate the number.

The survey drew on genetic analysis of more than 21,000 dung samples, alongside a vast network of camera traps and 6.67 lakh km of foot surveys.

"This is the first time DNA analysis of dung samples has been carried out. The results will serve as a new baseline for future monitoring and estimation. The methodology will be further refined, and comments have been invited from all wildlife wardens for this purpose," said an official.

The technique employed to count the jumbos this time was similar to what Indian wildlife scientists now use to enumerate tigers. The new count uses a three-phase process, combining ground surveys, satellite-based mapping and genetic analysis.

No revolutions in Cong: Jarkiholi

MYSURU, DHNS: Minister Satish Jarkiholi declined the BJP leaders' claim of a November Revolution.

"There are no such revolutions in the Congress," he said, speaking to media persons in Mysuru on Wednesday. He said, "It is natural that some supports express their opinion on wishing their leader to become chief minister. They are just their opinion."

Answering a query, he said that he has pulled himself back from the race for CM's seat, an year ago. The reasons for it are irrelevant now, he said.

'Not ready to evolve': SC on govt opposing lethal jab as execution mode

Plea seeks to end execution of death row convicts by hanging

NEW DELHI, PTI

The problem is that the government is not ready to evolve, the Supreme Court observed on Wednesday after the Centre said it may not be "very feasible" to give the option to death row convicts to choose lethal injection as a mode of execution.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta was hearing a plea seeking removal of the present mode of execution of death row convicts by hanging from the statute.

Senior advocate Rishi Malhotra, who has filed the petition, said at least an option should be given to a condemned prisoner as to whether he wants hanging or lethal injection as a mode of execution.

"I will demonstrate that the best way is lethal injection because 49 out of 50 states in the USA have adopted lethal injection," Malhotra said.

He said execution by administering lethal injection was quick, humane and decent as compared to hanging, which was cruel and barbaric as the body lies lingering on the rope for around 40 minutes.

Justice Mehta suggested the counsel representing the Centre to advise the government on Malhotra's proposition regarding providing an option to the death row convict.

DEATH PENALTY DEBATE

- Petitioner calls hanging 'cruel, barbaric and lingering', describes lethal injection as quick and humane
- Says 49 out of 50 states in the USA have adopted injection
- The Centre says it may not be "very feasible" to give the option to death row convicts
- The top court observes government not ready to evolve over the period of time.

The Centre's counsel said, "This is also addressed in the counter that it may not be very feasible to give an option".

Justice Mehta observed, "The problem is that the government is not ready to evolve over the period of time... Things have changed over a period of time".

Policy decision

The Centre's counsel submitted that it was said in the counter-affidavit that it was a policy decision and the government can take a call on that.

The lawyer referred to the apex court's May 2023 order passed in the matter.

In that order, the bench had noted Attorney General R Venkataramani's submission that the government was considering the appointment of a committee to review the issues sought to be raised in the matter.

The Centre's counsel said they would seek instructions from the government as to what has happened with regard to the committee.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on November 11.

Bengal Guv sends rape report of medical student to President

KOLKATA, DHNS: Governor C V Ananda Bose has sent a report to President Droupadi Murmu and the Union Home Ministry on the rape of a medical student in West Bengal — an incident that provided the BJP fresh ammunition to target the ruling Trinamool Congress over women's safety in the state.

The police have already arrested six people, the last being the survivor's male friend who accompanied her off the college campus in Durgapur on Friday evening. Though it was originally reported as a case of gang-rape, the police found that only one of the first five arrested had raped her, while the other four abetted the crime.

The Governor sent his report — based on his interaction with the survivor and her family — on Wednesday.

The survivor hails from Odisha and came to West Bengal to attend the medical college. Her family has now said they want to take her back home.

Meanwhile, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, a BJP MP from Odisha's Balasore, met Bose in Kolkata and discussed the incident with him.

Student uses pepper spray in Kerala school; many in hospital

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Several students and teachers at a school in Thiruvananthapuram were hospitalised on Wednesday after a student released pepper spray inside a classroom.

The incident occurred at the Punnamoodu Government Higher Secondary School on the outskirts of the city. Seven students and two teachers were taken to the Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospital for treatment.

The motive behind the use of pepper spray is not yet known.

According to school authorities, several students, including girls, were found to be having breathing difficulties when a teacher entered a higher secondary classroom after the interval. Some students even ran out of the class in distress.

Two teachers who rushed in upon hearing the students scream also experienced breathing difficulties.

They were immediately taken to a nearby hospital, while those with more severe symptoms were shifted to the medical college hospital.

The school is trying to identify the student responsible for using the pepper spray. There were unconfirmed reports that it may have been used for fun.

Contaminated cough syrup fatality count rises to 24

CHHINDWARA (MP), PTI: The death toll in the adulterated cough syrup tragedy mounted to 24 after two more children from Chhindwara district died of suspected renal failure during treatment in Nagpur in Maharashtra, an official said on Wednesday.

The latest victims are nine-month-old Divyanshu Yaduwanshi and Ambika Vishwakarma, aged three years, said additional collector of Chhindwara, Dhirendra Singh.

Yaduwanshi died during treatment at a hospital in Nagpur on Sunday, while Vishwakarma succumbed to the infection on Tuesday.

"Ambika Vishwakarma was admitted to New Health City Hospital in Nagpur in critical condition on September 14. Her health didn't improve during treatment. She died on Tuesday night", Singh said, adding that the latest deaths have taken the toll to 24.

Only 3 dists most affected by Naxalism: Govt

Prevalent in 126 dists in 2013, it has dipped to just 18 now

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The number of districts most affected by Naxalism has come down from six to three, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Wednesday. Now, only Bijapur, Sukma, and Narayanpur in Chhattisgarh remain in the most-affected category.

In the category of Left Wing Extremism-affected districts, the number has also been further brought down to just 11, including the three most affected districts, from 18. These districts are spread in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Telangana.

According to the MHA, 126 districts across India reported Naxal-related violence in 2013. But, by March this year, this tally had fallen to 18 districts, with only six classified as 'most affected districts.'

"In a giant stride towards the Modi government's vision of building a Naxal-free Bharat, the number of districts most affected by Naxalism has been brought down to three from six," an MHA statement said.

Besides the three most-affected Naxal districts, the other Naxal-affected districts are Dantewada, Gariyaband Kanker and Mohalla-Manpur-Ambagar Chowki (Chhattisgarh); West Singhbhum (Jharkhand); Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh); Gadchiroli (Maharashtra); and Kandhamal (Odisha).

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, it said the operational successes have surpassed all previous records this year.

It said 312 Naxals have been killed, including the CPI (Maoist) general secretary and eight other Politbureau or Central Committee members. Another 836 have been arrested, while 1,639 have surrendered and joined the mainstream. The surrendered Naxalites include one Politbureau member and a Central Committee member, it said.

Under the Modi government, it said, "unprecedented success" has been achieved in combating the Naxal menace through rigorous implementation of the National Action Plan and Policy.

These steps were accompanied by swift domination of areas with a security vacuum, targeting of top leaders as well as overground workers, countering the nefarious ideology, rapid development of infrastructure and saturation of welfare schemes, choking of finances, enhanced coordination between states and Centre and accelerated investigation and prosecution of cases.

Fadnavis asks forces not to lower guard against Naxals

MUMBAI, DHNS: Describing the surrender of outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) strategist and ideologue Mallojula Venugopal Rao, alias Bhupathi or Sonu, along with around 60 commanders and cadres in Gadchiroli district as the "beginning of the end of the Naxal movement" in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis warned the administration, police and security forces not to lower their guard.

"The next two to two-and-a-half years are going to be challenging... you cannot be complacent. Some of the remaining elements may try to launch a final assault in a bid to revive the Naxal movement... we have to be alert," Fadnavis said, addressing the administration, police, and security forces of Maharashtra as well as those in neighbouring Telangana and Chhattisgarh.

Speaking about Gadchiroli district, Fadnavis, who also holds the Home portfolio, said: "North Gadchiroli was declared free from Naxalism some time ago. The surrender of Bhupathi is a big development. Now, only a handful of them from one company remain in South Gadchiroli. I appeal to them to lay down their arms and join the mainstream. They will be properly rehabilitated."

Naxalites at the Border Security Force camp after their surrender, in Kanker district, Chhattisgarh. 139 cadres have laid down their arms across Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh in a massive two-day wave of surrenders. PTI

Maoist movement at its lowest ebb in decades

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

The CPI (Maoist) and the wider Naxal movement in India, which is reeling under sustained security operations over the past year, suffered a major setback with the surrender of one of its seniormost and prominent leaders, Mallojula Venugopal Rao (69), on Wednesday.

Alongside Venugopal Rao, nearly 60 middle and senior-level cadre also surrendered.

In recent months, Rao has publicly called for the renunciation of armed struggle, urging Maoist cadre to abandon violent operations and join the mainstream.

While several factions within the CPI (Maoist) supported Rao's reformist stance, a few committees openly opposed it. Intelligence sources indicated to *DH* that hundreds of cadre are expected to follow his lead and surrender in the coming days.

This wave of surrenders comes in the wake of the killing of Nambala Keshav Rao, alias Basava Raj, during Operation Kagaar on May 21.

It marked the first neutralisation of such a high-ranking Naxalite leader in decades. Following his death, Tippiri Tirupati, a Madiga Dalit from Telangana, was appointed as the party's general secretary.

With Tirupati now at the helm and the Central Committee reduced to a single-digit membership, the Maoist organisation finds itself at its weakest point in decades. To assist Tirupati, only one other senior commander, Madvi Hidma, remains active.

According to intelligence agencies, Ashanna, also known as Rupesh, who is believed to be operating from the dense Abujhmadh forests in Chhattisgarh has also decided to surrender.

Ashanna is said to be preparing to surrender along with nearly 70 cadre.

"The conditions that once favoured an armed struggle based on the revolutionary people's war approach have long since disappeared. Under the leadership of Comrade Abhay, about 60 members have joined the mainstream while committing themselves to raising public awareness and mobilising people for equality and the cause of communism. This is something society should welcome," said G Narasimha Reddy, who spent 35 years underground.

35,000 km of railway tracks built in 11 years: Minister

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said that 35,000 kilometres of new railway tracks have been built and 46,000 kilometres have been electrified over the past 11 years.

Speaking at the International Railway Equipment Exhibition here, the minister said that around 40,000 new coaches have been manufactured during this period.

On the bullet train project, Vaishnaw said that construction is moving at a very rapid pace, with 325 kilometres already completed.

The minister also said India now operates 156 Vande Bharat services, 30 Amrit Bharat services, and 4 Namo Bharat services.

Govt to bring law for strict quality checks, monitoring of drugs & cosmetics

NEW DELHI, PTI: Amid growing demand for stricter compliance with safety and quality control norms for medical products, the Centre is framing a law to strengthen the legal framework for drug quality testing and market surveillance, along with the regulation of medical devices and cosmetics.

One of the major reasons behind the drafting of the law is the repeated complaints and concerns flagged by health regulators across the globe, including the WHO, over serious quality lapses by Indian drug manufacturers.

The draft of the 'Drugs, Medical Devices and Cosmetics Act 2025' was presented by Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr Rajeev Raghuvanshi at a high-level meeting of the Union Health Ministry held on Tuesday, sources said.

The meeting was chaired by Union Health Minister J P Nadda.

During the meeting, senior officials from the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) and the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) outlined the framework of the proposed law.

NEW NORMS

- New powers allow immediate action against spurious or poor-quality medicines, a first for the CDSCO.
- Law to digitise licensing, improve coordination with state regulators, and upgrade testing labs nationwide.
- New law aligns with global standards to boost accountability and consumer safety.

Once approved, the new legislation will grant the CDSCO authorities statutory power to ensure strict quality checks and surveillance of drugs, medical devices and cosmetics manufactured in India for both domestic use and export, the sources said.

Under the new law, they said, the CDSCO will be granted statutory powers for the first time to take immediate action against fake or substandard medicines.

It will also include provisions to digitise the licensing process, enhance coordination among state-level regulators and upgrade testing lab capacities.

ON TRACK

Maiden human spaceflight launch in 2027, says Isro chief

RANCHI, PTI

Isro chairman V Narayanan on Wednesday said the space agency has set a target of landing Indians on the Moon by 2040, while its maiden human spaceflight mission 'Gaganyaan' is on track for launch in 2027.

Narayanan said a slew of ambitious space projects and sector reforms were currently underway, including a national space station by 2035, and three uncrewed 'Gaganyaan' missions by 2026, with the first one that includes a half-humanoid robot 'Vyommitra', targeted for December 2025.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a guideline for an indigenous crewed lunar mission by 2040, under which we have to land our own citizens on the moon and bring them back safely. A Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM) has also been approved to study the planet," Narayanan said.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) chief said the Bharatiya Antriksh Station (BAS) is expected to come up by 2035, and initial modules in space are expected as early as 2027.

"There are a lot of developments in 'Gaganyaan'. We are planning some more experiments. Before the crewed mission, we are planning three uncrewed missions. 'Vyommitra' is going to fly on that in December this year. Two more uncrewed missions will take place next year. Crewed 'Gaganyaan' mission would be possible by 2027 first quarter," Narayanan added.

He said India's upcoming projects include Chandrayaan-4 and Chandrayaan-5, a new Mars mission, and AXOM, a high-priority astronomical observatory mission.

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No.: EL-CON-RNC-LOM-PIS-25-4, Date: 14.10.2025. For and on behalf of the President of India, Assistant Electrical Engineer (Con), South Eastern Railway, Ranchi-834001 invites e-tender for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in**. The tender will be closed at **12.00 hrs**. on due date. **Brief Description of Works:** Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25KV OHE electrification and modification works including RC & PSI works and AT related works in connection with the work of Link line between Lodhma & Piska bypassing Hatia/Ranchi with "Y" connection in Ranchi division of South Eastern Railway. **Value of work:** ₹ 17,82,25,899.70. **Bid Security:** ₹ 10,41,100. **Completion period:** 24 months. **Closing Date:** 10.11.2025. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** [E-Tender → Works (login with phone no.) and search with above mentioned tender no.] for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for this item will be accepted. **NB:** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. **(PR-724)**

CAUTION NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our Client viz., Addison and Company Limited, No. 803, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, a member of the Amalgamations Group, is the absolute owner in possession of the property described in the Schedule written hereunder (and hereinafter referred to as **"THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY"**).

It has come to our Client's knowledge that several unscrupulous third parties/persons are purportedly claiming title / interest in the Schedule Property and are attempting to deal with it to the exclusion and detriment of our Client. Our Client being the absolute owner of The Schedule Property, is not desirous of dealing with The Schedule Property, in any manner whatsoever.

In light of the illegal and surreptitious claims and attempts to deal with The Schedule Property being made by unscrupulous person/s, our Client hereby cautions the general public not to deal with, transact with or attempt to negotiate any transaction for sale, lease, mortgage or otherwise in relation to The Schedule Property, with any third party/person. Any person/s dealing with or transacting in whatsoever manner, despite this Caution Notice will be doing so at their own risk, and any such transaction or dealing will not bind our Client or the Schedule Property, in any manner. Our Client further requests the General Public to exercise caution and inform the undersigned Advocates in case they receive any offer or request to deal with the Schedule Property from third parties/person/s.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the commercial Property bearing No. 53, PID No. 76-20-53, Old No. 7, St. Marks Road, Bengaluru measuring about 16,537.5 square feet together with a non-residential building thereon comprising ground and mezzanine floors constructed thereon and bounded as follows:

On the East : By Private Property;
West : By St. Marks Road;
North : By property bearing Municipal No. 52 known as Stracey Memorial School;
South : By property bearing Municipal No. 54 known as VST Lakshmi Complex.

M/s. Sundaraswamy & Ramdas,
Advocates,
No. 24, Keshava Nivas, Kalidasa Road,
Gandhinagar, Bangalore – 560 009.
Ph: 080-2226 3838, 2238 0809 Fax: 080-2225 1764
E-mail: admin@sundaraswamy.com

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 15-10-2025

PRASAR BHARATI
(India's Public Service Broadcaster)
DOORDARSHAN KENDRA, REGIONAL NEWS UNIT, BENGALURU

Applications from eligible candidates are hereby invited for the posts mentioned below at Regional News Unit, Bengaluru on full time contract basis.

1) Anchor cum Correspondent (Grade - II) & (Grade - III)
2) Bulletin Editor 3) Copy Editor 4) Packaging Assistant 5) Content Executive

Details regarding the Category, Educational Qualification, Experience, Remuneration etc. are available at **https://prasarbharati.gov.in/pbvacancies/**
The applications may be submittted through the weblink below: **https://avedan.prasarbharati.org/**

Sd/- Director (News)
Doordarshan Kendra, Bengaluru

MANGALURU CITY CORPORATION
Lalbagh, M.G. Road, Mangalore – 575003, Karnataka, INDIA.
Phone: 0824-2220313–18, Fax: 0824-2220310.
Website: www.mangalorecity.gov.in

DMA/2025-26/WORK INDENT NO.49815,49817 Date: 14-10-2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) invites e-tenders from eligible Contractors under AMRUT-2.0 Fund as per KTPP Act 1999 Rule 2000. Pre-Bid Meeting is on **28-10-2025** and last date for submission of tender is on **31-10-2025 @ 5.30 PM**. Work Details is as below

Sl. No	Description of Work	Amount put to tender
1	DEVELOPMENT OF KALAKANDA KODIKAL PARK IN MANGALORE CITY CORPORATION LIMITS. **(Indent No. DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 49815)**	Rs. 224.41 Lakhs
2	DEVELOPMENT OF KADRI PARK IN MANGALORE CITY CORPORATION LIMITS. **(Indent No.DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 49817)**	Rs. 324.41 Lakhs

For More detailed information please visit website:
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/942/25-26 dt: 15.10.2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mangaluru City Corporation

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಟೋಲ್‌ನಾಕಾ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 0836 – 2747842, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: ksdb.dhrdiv@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕ.ಕೊ.ಅ.ಮ./ಕಾ.ಪಾ.ಅ./ಧಾ.ವಿ./ತಾಂ.ಶಾ./ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ./2025–26/592
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13–10–2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿಂತೆ, 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಆಯವ್ಯಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಳಚೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ 4217–04–051–0–01 ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ 2ನೇ ಕರೆ ಕರೆದಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರ / ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15–10–2025 ರಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 23–10–2025 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ / ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 24–10–2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.

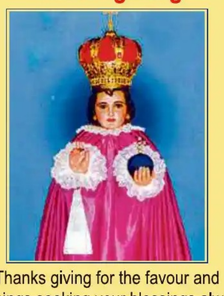
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರನ್ ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ / ಟೆಂಡರನ್ ನಿಯಮ / ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ತುಂಬುವ ವಿಧಾನ್ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ದಿನಗಳಂದು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/765/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving



Thanks giving for the favour and blessings seeking your blessings always
- Vijayalakshmi & Family

THANKSGIVING
Book your Thanksgiving Advertisement in **Deccan Herald**
@2000/-
(Size 4cmx5cm)
For more Details Contact:
Ph: 080- 45557163/ 164
9845114560 | 9731810277

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Tunnel vision: The red flags we can't miss

The proposed 16.7-km tunnel road between Central Silk Board and Hebbal in Bengaluru is on shaky ground. Costing nearly Rs 18,000 crore, this underground twin-tube project, actively backed by Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, is being pushed through with unseemly haste, even as crucial questions about feasibility, safety, and environmental impact remain unanswered. An expert committee constituted by the government has flagged over 121 shortcomings in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by B-SMILE. The committee, headed by BMRCL executive director S Hegaraddi, found the report to be riddled with inconsistencies, copy-paste errors, and "bare minimum" geological data. It warned that this could lead to cost escalations, waterlogging, and structural issues during construction. The committee has also recommended that at least 90% of the worksite area be encumbrance-free before tendering, a norm yet to be complied with.

Perhaps the most troubling revelation concerns the alignment passing perilously close to one of Bengaluru's oldest and most cherished green spaces, Lalbagh Botanical Garden, developed over two centuries ago by Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan. Environmentalists have also flagged the risks to Lalbagh's rock bed, groundwater, and rare trees. While Shivakumar has clarified that six acres of Lalbagh will not be acquired as feared, ignoring the red flags raised by the panel and proceeding with bidding would be reckless. This begs the question: why is the DCM, and the government, in such a tearing hurry?

Safety and sustainability should not be casualties in the undue haste for grandiose projects

Adding to the unease is the plan's regressive mobility vision. The tunnel will cater only to private cars – no buses or two-wheelers – and levy steep tolls of around Rs 19 per kilometre, making a one-way full journey cost over Rs 300. This makes it a project for the privileged, not the public. Bengaluru's real mobility crisis lies in the inadequacy of its public transport. The Metro line to the airport has been hanging fire for years; suburban rail, bus corridors, and last-mile connectivity continue to languish. The DCM should focus on completing these projects rather than chasing grandiose new ones. It would be wiser for the government to strengthen public transport, integrate modes, and make commuting efficient for all rather than for an elite minority. If these concerns are borne out, the tunnel could turn into another costly white elephant, draining public funds and delivering little in return. Does Bengaluru really need another expensive experiment, or a sustainable mobility vision that serves the city's future? This is the time to pause, listen to the experts, and fix what is already broken before digging new holes – literally and financially.

A trade thrust to India-UK ties

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to India was a natural follow-up to the signing of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the two countries in July, and highlighted areas of co-operation and potential challenges. That Starmer was accompanied by the largest-ever UK delegation of businesspersons to India showed the focus of the visit. Indian companies are projected to make investments of about £1.3 billion in the UK. While some Indian companies propose to set up manufacturing facilities in the UK and trade is set to increase in both directions, India hopes to avail of advanced technologies and innovative practices. Some sectors such as gems and jewellery, which may be hit hard by the new US tariff regime, are likely to find new export markets in the UK.

Starmer said the trade deal would give an impetus to future cooperation between the two countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said there was "a new energy" in the relationship. Multiple sectors including defence, education, and health, and areas such as climate action will gain from the co-operation. An agreement has been signed under which India will buy UK missiles worth Rs 4,000 crore and naval engines. Nine British universities are proposing on-site campuses in India. Collaboration in research and facilities is expected to increase. The British economy is not in the best of health, but there are multiple areas where India can leverage its relations with the UK. The trade deal is yet to be approved by the British parliament but it is expected in due course. Starmer said he wanted the deal to be implemented "as quickly as humanly possible" as it is Britain's largest post-Brexit trade achievement.

Deals formalised during Keir Starmer's India visit signal a deepening of bilateral relations

India was not able to get any commitment from Starmer on the relaxation of visa norms for its professionals and students. It is not possible for a UK government to make any concessions in this regard when immigration remains an intensely debated political issue in the UK and the government is under attack from a rising right wing on the subject. The importance of the visit to both countries was clear from the size of the British delegation and the grand reception extended to Starmer and his team, in both Delhi and Mumbai. The welcome, according to the British press, prompted a business leader who accompanied the Prime Minister, who faces political troubles back home, to say: "I bet he wishes he could stay here."

UNFINISHED EQUALITY

Elite India and the costs of caste denial

In elite institutions, discrimination is often masked as meritocracy. Only a moral awakening can bring true inclusion

AKHIL YADAV

We like to believe that caste fades away in the halls of power – universities, bureaucracies, and courts. Yet, recent incidents serve as poignant reminders that it endures, even where meritocracy is loudly proclaimed. The suicide of a senior Scheduled Caste IPS officer in Haryana laid bare the burdens carried by those historically marginalised. Such events are not isolated; rather, they reflect a society that condones hierarchies beneath the surface of merit. Caste does not vanish behind education, titles, or formal protocols; instead, it lingers subtly in expectations, unspoken norms, and the allocation of opportunity. Acknowledging this is the practical starting point for tackling the inequalities still woven into the fabric of India's elite.

Articles 15 and 17 forbade discrimination and untouchability, and Article 46 committed the State to developing the educational and economic interests of the Scheduled Castes. B R Ambedkar referred to this as social democracy. During the decades since Independence, great efforts have been made by India to achieve this dream. Reservation in education and administration was introduced to create avenues for social mobility. Early policies envisioned an India where ability and hard work, not pedigree, would determine opportunity.

But seven and a half decades later, that promise is still more inscription than institution. India has generated a Dalit middle class and broadened educational opportunity, but under this semblance of inclusion is a stubborn deficit between constitutional purpose and social conscience. The tension is no longer between villages of oppression and cities of modernity; it is between the text of equality and the psyche of privilege. In the universities, courts, and bureaucracies of the elite, the regime of caste endures, invisible to most, but indisputably evident to victims of its weight.

The IPS officer who ended his life, alleging harassment, was not failing an exam or a post; he was navigating a space where social hierarchies subtly question belonging, even amid professional recognition.

Among the educated elite, caste is often considered a relic. Classrooms, courtrooms, and boardrooms have ears that delight in claims that discrimination is a thing of the past. But the statistics tell a different story. Scheduled Castes comprise 16.6% of Indians and yet hold only 4% of top-level bureaucratic positions. Fewer than 5% of judges in upper courts are SC or ST. Diversity among professors in IITs and central universities is lamentably poor, and Dalit students continue to face despair in universities that promised them freedom.

These are not accidents of competition, but consequences of underlying arrangements. When privilege appears as merit, exclusion is framed as efficiency. Caste no longer manifests via slur or segregation; instead, a veil is thrown over its appearance with words like "cultural fit," gaps in networking, unwritten norms, and the polite affirmation that "we don't see caste". Subtle barriers like inequities in mentorship, informal gatekeeping, and exclusion by professional networks maintain hierarchies while disguised as meritocracy.

The consequences are tangible. Marginalised students and officers often bear disproportionate psychological burdens, navigating spaces that celebrate formal equality but fail in substantive support. Open hostility can be condemned; invisible bias congratulates itself as progress. Denying caste is thus one of the most sophisticated forms of inequality, erasing others' experiences while weakening the moral foundation of constitutional equality.

The State has built impressive legal scaffolding but little social foundation. Reservation policies opened doors, but institutions never fully learned inclusion. Anti-discrimination laws remain reactive, not preventive. Committees are formed after tragedies, only to dissolve into bureaucratic amnesia. Data on caste representation in the judiciary, academia, and private sector appointments is often missing. Meanwhile, 'merit' has quietly replaced substantive equality with formal equality: treating unequals identically.

Ambedkar warned that political democracy cannot endure without social democracy. Today, his warning echoes in universities, bureaucracies, and courtrooms – the very spaces meant to reflect rationality. Even within the private economy, caste hierarchies are a fact. Hiring is dependent on network and cultural affinity; leadership options are unbalanced. Meritocracy is a comforting illusion that works for a few. Caste tragedy in contemporary India is not ignorance but callousness: refusal by the educated to notice hierarchies that are to their advantage.

Building conscience, not just law

The future is not about laws, but about conscience. Transparency is the first order of business. Public institutions, starting with universities and courts, must put up caste-wise representation statistics. Without statistics, equality is just rhetoric. Second, inclusion must be a criterion; diversity is institutional strength, not tokenism, in selection and promotion. Third, the Constitution is not to be taught as civics, but as moral grammar in the common vocabulary of equality and empathy.

Mentorship programmes that match underrepresented students with veteran professionals, explicit anti-bias training within the bureaucracies and universities, and active discovery of ability by underrepresented groups can translate abstract ideals into a lived reality.

Critically, India has to recover the lost phrase in its Preamble – fraternity. Equality can be codified and enforced; fraternity has to be transmitted by conscience. It converts coexistence into community and rights into relationships. Unless this is grounded on morals, laws are hollow structures, and meritocracy, a thin cover for entrenched hierarchy.

India has increased opportunities, but not inclusion. The fact that caste prejudices still find a home in its most educated quarters is its gravest paradox: freedom's greatest beneficiaries are often its most reluctant practitioners. An officer's suicide or a student's desperation is never a private failure, but a public indictment. Till the privileged accept comfort as a responsibility, not a right, legality will be insisted upon, but society will be socially incomplete.

Institutions may change policies, but societal transformation requires the privileged to see inequality not as distant or abstract, but as daily and lived. Only then can meritocracy be more than an ideal, and equality more than a policy.

(The writer is a Millennium fellow and a law student at the Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Rajaji's remedy for cycles of unrest

The grief of the young woman had melted the iron man

NAVARATNA LAXMAN

Rajaji and my father Navaratna Rama Rao shared a close and abiding friendship for over six decades till the end. Whenever Rajaji visited Bengaluru, he invariably stayed in our house, notwithstanding the protocol warranted by the official positions he occupied from time to time.

A pair of dark tinted glasses he wore owing to his eye condition was a matter of much speculation in the political circles then, attracting several interpretations, some of them even atrociously humorous. According to some, he wore dark glasses because the 'Southern Chanakya' didn't want anyone to make out who he was looking at and also to prevent his eyes from giving away his thoughts.

On one such visit to Bengaluru, in 1949, he was holding the exalted position of the Governor General of India. Despite stiff resistance from his security staff, he stuck to his decision to stay with us.

During the course of his three-day stay, many people from all walks of life were eager to meet him, and seek his guidance on personal and several other matters. Despite his enormous pressing engagements, Rajaji spared as much time as he could to interact with them.

It was at this juncture that a young lady in deep distress (daughter-in-law of a distant relative of ours) sought to meet him urgently, and Rajaji agreed. She narrated amid uncontrollable sobs, how she was being ill-treated, humiliated and tortured by her 'unscrupulous' mother-in-law.

"I'm shattered, I have no one to turn to, as my parents are no more. Even my husband, who has married me for love, supports his mother, and lets me down. He is a total Mamma's boy," she lamented.

"Rajaji Uncle," she continued to plead with folded hands, "you are known to fight for the cause of the weak and oppressed. But for my only young son, I would have definitely resorted to something drastic. Please do something to put an end to these atrocities... Only you can help me."

Rajaji slowly took off his dark glasses. He made no effort to hide his tears-filled eyes, reflecting his soft and compassionate interior. There was no trace of the tough politician in them. The grief of the young woman had melted the iron man.

"What a strange and tragic coincidence my dear child," said Rajaji with a heavy voice. "Nearly two decades ago, your mother-in-law had come to me to this very house with an identical problem, and believe me, she had described her woes against her mother-in-law in exactly the same language and tenor as you've just done. I'd told her that when she got her daughter-in-law, she should treat her as her own daughter by forgiving her lapses. Obviously, nothing of the sort seems to have happened. Now, dear young lady, you say you have a son. When you get a daughter-in-law of your own, will you break this vicious chain, by making her find a mother in you?"

"Right now, excuse the lapses of your mother-in-law, as you would have of your own mother, and make her see a daughter in you. Do this for me, and I shall do the rest."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lokayukta must facilitate public scrutiny of cases

Apropos 'Lokayukta raids 12 officers, uncover DA worth Rs 38 crore' (Oct 15), it is evident that the threat of Lokayukta raids and asset seizures is failing to curb corruption in the state administration. Despite these raids, officials exploit their influence and legal loopholes to weaken cases or escape prosecution. To promote transparency and accountability, the state Lokayukta must proactively publish a tabular summary of all cases on its website, including details of seizures, court proceedings, convictions, and recoveries. This will facilitate public scrutiny and increase faith in anti-corruption efforts. Naming and shaming wrongdoers is essential to deter potential offenders.

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru

Tunnel not needed

The proposed tunnel project --connecting Silk Board in south Bengaluru and Hebbal in the north-- could cause irreparable damage to Lalbagh. The tunnel route near the lake poses a significant risk of collapse, while the route under the 100-year-old trees will harm the botanical garden. The project will disrupt public access to Lalbagh for years, and restoration of the garden after completion will be impossible. It is imperative that an alternative route be explored to preserve the integrity of Lalbagh.

Supraj, Bengaluru

Prioritise safety

The proposed tunnel project between Silk Board and Hebbal raises serious concerns about the potential damage to Lalbagh's billion-year-old rock system. Despite the expert committee's identification of 121 flaws in the DPR, the government seems keen to proceed with the project. The government must prioritise ecological safety over expediency and conduct a thorough study on the project's impact on the environment before proceeding further. The long-term consequences of damaging this unique ecosystem must not be underestimated.

L Parashuram, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

Tejashwi Yadav said, '*Hum naya Bihar bana rahe hain*', and in this new Bihar, he is giving a ticket to Shahabuddin's son. When he (Shahabuddin) used to rule Siwan, no one dared to enter there.

Ravi Shankar Prasad, BJP MP

We would all like to vote for the best man but he is never a candidate.

Kin Hubbard

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Germany's Gaza dilemma

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the guilt over the Holocaust force Germany into a complex moral balancing act

K M RAKESH

The first post-war president of Germany, Theodor Heuss, had famously described the Holocaust as the cause for collective shame, not collective guilt. But every generation of post-War Germans actually felt a sense of collective guilt over the mass extermination of Jews and others during the darkest chapter of the country's history. An estimated six million Jews, and five million others, including Roma and Sinti people, had perished in the genocide carried out by the Nazi regime of Adolf Hitler.

Subsequent German governments, first in Bonn (capital of West Germany) and later in Berlin, had maintained that Germany had an obligation to support the state of Israel and fight antisemitism. While post-war Germany had seen not-so-successful de-Nazification efforts, successive governments had to tread cautiously since anti-semitism is often equated with Nazism, which the country despises.

This is considered one of the reasons why Germany refused to join the club of European and Western nations, which recently recognised the state of Palestine. Germany, in short, feels obligated to Israel. Berlin, while supporting the humanitarian cause of the Palestinian people, stood out by not joining France, Belgium, Britain, Australia, Canada, Portugal, and others in recognising the Palestinian state.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz had days before the Gaza ceasefire ruled out any change in his country's long-held position when asked ahead of the recent UN General Assembly, where many countries recognised the Palestinian statehood. In keeping with Germany's unalterable position, he had instead reminded that recognition of the Palestinian state should ideally be the final step in the peace process, that too a "two-state solution."

Pressure from the German people and civil society failed to budge the conservative-led government, which, in August, quite surprisingly, stopped exports of key weapon systems to Israel. Driven by its steadfast obligation to Israel, as a sort of retribution to the sufferings of the Holocaust victims, Germany had over the years become the second-largest arms supplier to Israel, after the US.

Yet, Germany is among the top donors to UN aid efforts in Palestine. Berlin has been a vocal advocate for a peaceful Middle East, especially since Germany is home to the largest chunk of over 100,000 Palestinians living in Europe.

But unlike Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey, Europe was largely uninvolved in the ceasefire negotiations. Germany and France are pushing for a UN role in securing peace in Gaza, and perhaps have a voice in its implementation, being members of the comity of nations. Israel and the US are, however, sceptical of the UN, especially since it censured Israel for committing genocide in Gaza.

After winning the February elections, Merz had kicked up a row by declaring he would invite Benjamin Netanyahu to Germany in defiance of the Internal Criminal Court arrest warrant against him. Staunchly pro-Israel, Merz had, however, declared in August that Israel's military assaults on Gaza would not achieve Tel Aviv's goal of eliminating Hamas.

Ceasefire, a breather

Just days before the US-brokered ceasefire came into force, Merz had shocked even his supporters by declaring that Germany would drop out of the 2026 Eurovision Song Contest if Israel was excluded. On the contrary, Spain, the Netherlands, Ireland, Iceland, and Slovenia had earlier decided to boycott the 70th anniversary edition of Eurovision, set to take place in Vienna in May 2026, if Israel is allowed to participate.

Even Merz's predecessor, Olaf Scholz of the Centre-Left Social Democratic Party, had reassured his country's continued support for Israel. "We will never forget the suffering and the millions of (Holocaust) victims," he had said in 2022, emphasising a "perpetual responsibility" for Israel's security.

Notwithstanding such a tight-rope walk necessitated by its obligation to Israel, successive governments in Berlin have consistently spoken against human rights violations in Palestine. The "special relationship" Germany maintains with Israel has, however, been under tremendous pressure from its own citizens who rallied for Palestinians.

The Israeli ground and air campaign against Gazans, all in the name of "eliminating" Hamas, had triggered massive protests in Germany. An estimated 67,000 people, a third of them under the age of 18, were killed in the two-year war triggered by the deadly October 7 attack by Hamas that killed more than 1,200 Israelis and took over 200 hostages.

While a ceasefire that holds is the best thing for all stakeholders, Germany will breathe easy as it doesn't have to juggle between its obligation to Israel and humanitarian responsibility towards the Palestinians, and join in the peace and reconstruction efforts as Gazans return to the bombed-out ruins of what was once home.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in Berlin)

All eyes on the 'enemy within' as NDA and I.N.D.I.A bloc face off in Bihar

DATELINE PATNA

ABHAY KUMAR

Battlelines are drawn for a straight, fierce, and bitter contest between the NDA and the I.N.D.I.A bloc in Bihar, for the two-phase election scheduled from November 6 to 11. However, amid tall claims of "all is well" within both camps, it appears that "nothing is well" on either side of the fence.

Internal dissension and rumblings plague both alliances. In NDA, the JD(U) chief and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is reportedly unhappy with the BJP's attempts to cut him down to size. First, he has not been officially declared the chief ministerial candidate, even though the BJP depends heavily on him to win Bihar. Secondly, for the first time in 25 years, the BJP and JD(U) will contest on equal number of seats, effectively doing away with the 'big brother' tag for Nitish and his party. Thirdly, the BJP's decision to extend an olive branch to Chirag Paswan by allotting him more seats than expected has not gone down well with Nitish.

Discordant notes

The smaller NDA allies are equally disgruntled. Jitan Ram Manjhi and Upendra Kushwaha have openly expressed their displeasure over being allotted a meagre number of seats compared to Paswan. "All is not well within the NDA" remarked Kushwaha, who heads the fledgling Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) and remains an unreliable ally. Manjhi, who has pledged loyalty to Nitish Kumar and Prime Minster Narendra Modi, too voiced his unhappiness, warning that "the NDA will suffer when the time comes".

The BJP, however, has remained silent on its allies' grievances, focussed solely on one goal: to win Bihar, the only state where it has yet to have its own chief minister.

Winning Bihar requires sound arithmetic. In the 2020 Assembly election, both the NDA and the Mahagatbandhan (the Hindi version of the I.N.D.I.A bloc) secured around 37% of the vote, with just a 0.03% difference between them. The NDA won 125 seats, while the Mahagatbandhan was restricted to 110 -- losing a few seats by narrow margins of 12 to 900 votes.

That was when Chirag Paswan was not part of the NDA and Mukesh Sahni's VIP was not in the Mahagatbandhan. With Chirag in its fold, the NDA hopes to push its vote share to 40%, banking on the LJP (R)'s influence among the 6% Paswan vote base. The Mahagatbandhan, meanwhile, aims to raise its share from 37% to 40% with Mukesh Sahni's support, as the mercurial VIP chief claims to command a strong following among the numerically strong Mallahs (boatmen and fishermen) community.

The RJD-led Mahagatbandhan, along with the Congress, CPI, CPM, CPI-ML and the VIP, is presenting a united front.

PK, the third angle

Adding a third angle and a twist is Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj. While the JD(U) and the BJP are contesting 101 seats each, the LJP(R) 29, and Manjhi and Kushwaha six each, PK, as Prashant Kishor is fondly called, has fielded candidates in all 243 seats -- a feat unmatched even by major parties like the RJD, BJP or Congress.

"PK's intentions are good. His focus on issues like employment and migration is also commendable. However, the poll strategist-turned-politician has erred on three fronts. First, he should have been himself the party president. (How many people know that Uday Singh, former MP, is Jan Suraaj national president?). Second, he should have declared himself the chief ministerial face if he is really serious about giving the people of Bihar (who are tired of Lalu's 15 years and Nitish's 20 years of rule) a viable alternative. Third, he has refused to contest the poll, thereby sending a wrong message," said veteran political commentator and editor of a national magazine Giridhar Jha.

"PK's Jan Suraaj will attract some votes, but not enough to romp home. At best, he will end up as a vote-cutter. Whom he damages more, will be known only after the election results are analysed," the political expert added.

"In theory, the NDA has an edge with Nitish doling out one sop after another for women and youth. Out of 7.4 crore voters (after the Special Intensive Revision) in Bihar, 3.5 crore are women. From enforcement of prohibition to school uniform and financial aid for girl students, besides 35% jobs reserved for women, the women voters may vote for Nitish in a massive way," says another veteran political scientist Ajay Kumar who has covered Bihar since 1995.

"However, if RJD's Tejashwi Yadav succeeds in deftly stitching his alliance, and lures youth and women through his promise of providing a government job for every family without one could be a game changer, just like it happened in 2020 when Tejashwi promised to provide jobs to unemployed and he did it during his brief stint as Deputy CM of Bihar from August 2022 to January 2024," said the political scientist.

As Bihar readies for an electoral battle, Nitish Kumar faces the burden of incumbency, Tejashwi Yadav the test of maturity, and Prashant Kishor the challenge of translating strategy into success. As discontent simmers within the two major camps, it remains to be seen who can persuade the silent voter — the women, the youth, and the disenchanted — that their future lies with them.

Protesters say their anger reflects a lack of economic opportunity in a continent with the world's youngest population

Frustrated Gen Z threatens to topple African govts

MATTHEW MPOKE BIGG

A baton-wielding police officer confronts demonstrators during a protest against a bill the protesters said would raise prices in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. The bill was later withdrawn. FILE PHOTO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

First Kenya, then Madagascar and now Morocco. A wave of protests under the banner of Gen Z has swept through parts of Africa. Demonstrators have stormed parliament buildings. Security forces have killed and injured hundreds, and in Madagascar the president fell from power on Tuesday.

Each protest has had specific causes, but under the surface each reflects the failure of elected governments to provide economic opportunities for young people across a continent with the youngest population in the world, according to protesters and analysts. The frustration among young people poses a challenge to governments beyond where Generation Z protests have taken place, not least because of the continent's young demographic. Africa's median age is 19, which means that young people are entering the workplace and becoming politically active in large numbers.

Young voters in Botswana last year helped defeat the party that had ruled since independence, while in South Africa discontent among young people with the economic performance of the African National Congress helped cause its vote share to fall below 50% for the first time since the end of apartheid in 1994.

"Young people want some form of prosperity, they want some form of hope and they are not seeing that," said Ndongo Sylla, a Senegalese economist and author. The attempts by security forces to repress the protests suggest that governments lacked clear answers, he added.

In one measure of the limited economic opportunities in Africa, the vast majority of new jobs on the continent are in the informal sector, according to the African Development Bank.

Young people often lead demands for change and analysts argue that, while social media makes these protests distinct, it does not constitute a fundamental difference.

But social media has made it easier for Gen Z, the demographic cohort born roughly between 1997 and 2012, to outfox the authorities by orchestrating demonstrations on the fly without high-profile leadership. At the same time, political demands have become more ambitious over time, which has kept governments off-balance in the face of the protests.

Kenya, where global Gen Z protests broke out last year, is a case in point. Young people marched through the capital, Nairobi, and other cities to protest a finance bill introduced by the government of President William Ruto that they said would raise prices. Behind that lay an array of grievances, including spiralling debt, corruption, rising prices and youth unemployment.

In a significant victory, the president withdrew the bill in June last year, the day after some protesters stormed parts of parliament and more than 60 people had died, largely as a result of police fire. The protests resumed in June on the anniversary of the largest demonstrations, with calls for the president to resign, and at least eight others were killed.

"The systemic change that everybody wants has not happened," said Nelson Amenya, a student activist. Amenya's role as a whistleblower over a proposed deal by the government to overhaul the capital's main airport last year helped fuel the protests in Kenya.

In recent weeks there have also been protests in Indonesia and Nepal, where the government fell, while President Andry Rajoelina of Madagascar was forced to dissolve his government in an attempt to quell protests. The protesters had demanded that he step down for his failure to deliver basic services, including electricity and water. Many young people were not appeased.

"Firing the government is not a solution. The real problem hasn't been uprooted," said Rakoarivao Andritiana Kevin, 20, a law student at the University of Ankatso in the capital, Antananarivo, arguing that Rajoelina should resign.

Rajoelina has since gone into hiding and was impeached by parliament on Tuesday.

The demonstrations that erupted in Morocco in recent weeks were driven by anger over spending on infrastructure before this year's Africa Cup of Nations football tournament and the 2030 World Cup. Three people were killed. The protests, organised by a group known as Gen Z 212, used social media to call for better schools as well as hospitals and broader freedoms.

"Promises have not been kept and the credibility of the country's political elite has suffered as a result," said Aboubakr Jamai, dean of the Madrid centre at the American College of the Mediterranean. The success of the demonstrations in Madagascar and Nepal, which have prompted changes of government, has forced activists in Kenya to reflect on their lack of progress.

"I've been looking at them with jealousy, because they are literally getting what they want," said Lee Makenna Jelani, who has supported Kenya's protests and organised a dialogue on social media to discuss what lessons could be learned. **NYT**

Madagascar military seizes power, then nation explodes in joy

Madagascar erupted into cheers Tuesday at the stunning fall of President Andry Rajoelina, who was impeached by parliament and ousted by the military in rapid succession, following weeks of violent, youth-led protests that rocked this impoverished southern African island nation.

But for all the celebrations over his removal, there were also big questions on what comes next.

After parliament voted overwhelmingly to impeach Rajoelina on Tuesday, soldiers quickly entered the presidential palace and announced they would be dissolving all of Madagascar's major institutions — including the highest court, the electoral commission and the Senate — but leaving in place the National Assembly, the lower house of parliament.

Rajoelina, who just a day earlier said he had gone into hiding because of threats on his life, swiftly issued a statement condemning "the illegal declaration made today by a faction of renegade military" and insisted that he "remains fully in power."

The developments capped a turbulent 24 hours of political manoeuvering and left Madagascar's future leadership in question at a time the country relies heavily on foreign aid and instability could lead to international isolation. The country had been roiled by protests for weeks over the government's failure to provide basic needs, including reliable water and electricity. But the immediate aftermath of the impeachment and military takeover was euphoria in Antananarivo, the capital.

Thousands gathered at a plaza in the centre of the city to celebrate what they believed was Rajoelina's ouster. Led by young people who have taken inspiration from Gen Z protest movements worldwide, the revellers danced to reggae, waved Malagasy flags and chanted expletives to let Rajoelina, 51, know that he must go. Some of the president's detractors say that he is too beholden to France, Madagascar's former colonial ruler, and that he has squandered the country's potential. Madagascar, with a population of 32 million, is rich in mineral resources and biodiversity, and is the largest producer of vanilla in the world.

"He is the reason why we suffer," said Eddy Bessa, a 35-year-old artist, celebrating with the crowd with a Malagasy flag tucked into his dreadlocks. "He is the reason for the corruption. He is the reason for jobless people. And he is the reason why our country lost our own culture." NYT

Redefining strength from muscle to mind

MELANIE P KUMAR

This year, one of the leading world resources for the English language, the Cambridge Dictionary, added 6,000 new words to its online edition. This update reflects the dramatic influence of social media, Internet jargon and generational trends (popularised by Gen Z and Gen Alpha) on the English language.

Familiarising myself with buzzwords like "skibidi" and "lewk" had me yelling out, 'gibberish.' But checking again, the word "delulu" caught my fancy, as it turned out to be a short form for delusional.

In a country like India, steeped in patriarchy, it would not be surprising to think that strength is automatically linked with physical strength, which is attributed to a man. This strength can even be used by some to claim a special ability to offer protection to others, from the size of one's chest.

But this is not just today. Our language and popular culture are replete with words like "Iron Man", "Strong Man", and "He-Man", creating an association of physical strength with mental capabilities, which makes one wonder if we are all "delulu"!

Across the world too, one has seen the rise of so-called "strong men". When power comes to one's hand, is physical strength really needed, or do strong-arm tactics actually rule the day? In President Donald Trump's United States, newer examples are seen every day of the browbeating of people that the Republican government doesn't like while glorifying those who employ the language of violence.

In Russia and even beyond its shores, President Vladimir Putin, with his KGB background, has seen the physical end of those who would oppose him, the most well-known one being that of Alexei Anatolyevich Navalny—a Russian opposition leader, anti-corruption activist and political prisoner who died in 2024. The greatest worry for democracies is how rulers are likely to feed off one another's strongarm ideas to have their way.

The last ten years of BJP government in India, despite tall claims, have still not brought peace. The latest example is that of Ladakh, where the strong arm of the law has been used to beat down people and where the infamous UAPA, which ensures a minimum of a year in jail without bail, has seen the activist Sonam Wangchuk put in jail for his "provocative" speeches.

For a party that has no hesitation in using dog whistles with words like *ghuspetiya* before the Bihar elections, this is ironic. With a BJP coalition being in power there presently, how strange it appears that the word 'intruder' should enter your vocabulary, as also the need to weed them out via the use of SIR, just when elections are round the corner.

If the government's claim that the opposition will allow outsiders who will take away the jobs of the Biharis is true, then the obvious question is, 'How did illegal immigrants enter the state despite a strong, double-engine government? Hope the average Bihari will say *dal mein kuch kala hai*, implying that it sounds like fishy business.

After the striking down of Article 370 in Kashmir, using harsh measures like the blocking of the Internet, did peace come? The tragedy of Pahalgam is a reminder that the loyalty and affection of the people have to be won by something more than constant publicity and propaganda.

In this context, it might be opportune to remember the Mahatma, beyond Gandhi Jayanti, to make a show of public respect. Sadly, with each year, India appears to be moving further and further away from his message of peace and non-violence.

Lifting the veil of delusion from our minds should be the realisation that it isn't the strength of a broad chest that can bring peace but the strong heart that beats within and feels for all the people that can do so.

Unlike today's leaders who project themselves as saviours, Gandhi worshipped the God of humility. He understood in practicality that people would empower one who humbled himself and that a renouncer would obtain both spiritual and political power, in the words of his grandson, Rajmohan Gandhi.

Gandhi was fearless and refused security, unlike today's leaders, who would be lost without strongly armed men offering them high-level protection.

Gandhi could probably be the one person who might remove the "delulu" of what strength really means. To quote his American friend, E Stanley Jones, also an author and evangelist, "Gandhi was of East and West, the city and village, a Hindu influenced by Christianity, simple and shrewd, candid and courteous, serious and playful, humble and self-assertive" – a sweet savour... But, while the savour is sweet, the preponderating impression he leaves is not sweetness but strength.

(The author is an independent writer)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

Havanur panel to submit report next month

Bangalore, October 15
The Karnataka Backward Classes Commission has not gone only on the principle of "hierarchy of castes" in the determination of social backwardness but chosen to apply "status summation" test in the specification of advancement, according to Mr. L. G. Havanur, Commission Chairman, here today. He told pressmen that this objective and rational approach in the context of prevailing circumstances helped the commission in identifying the really backward groups.

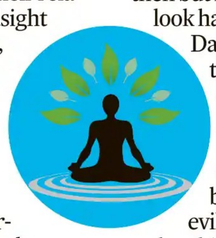
25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

NDA won't give in to RSS, to continue reforms: Laxman

Shirdi (Maharashtra), Oct 15 (PTI)
BJP President, Bangaru Laxman, today emphasised that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre will not deviate from the economic reforms programme owing to pressure from the RSS. "There may be differences of opinion between BJP and RSS over the economic liberalisation policy but the former will go ahead with the process", Mr Laxman told a news conference here. "The BJP has to seek votes from people and not the Sangh Parivar and Swadeshi Jagran Manch."

OASIS | RADHIKA D SHYAM

Kaikeyi's role and redemption



The contributions of an antagonist, to help achieve our goals in the larger scheme of life, should never be undermined.

When Ayodhya was lit up to welcome their favourite crown prince Ram, the darkness of amavasya seemed to have engulfed one soul, that of guilt-ridden Kaikeyi. The last 14 years were more of a vanvaas for her than it was for the trio returning from their exile. She was scorned upon by the whole kingdom and her beloved son for depriving them of their ideal king and blamed for the tragic death of her husband, King Dashrath. The compassionate sympathy of the other two queens felt like salt rubbed on fresh wounds.

How she had doted on her favoured, eldest son throughout, till one ill-fated day! They both had a special place for each other in their hearts. Their relationship was unique. In hindsight she couldn't believe that she, of all people had destroyed their exemplary familial bliss. Mantara had tried to instigate her against Ram multiple times, but in vain. She cursed that vulnerable moment on the eve of his coronation when she fell prey to the poison spewed from Mantara's tongue. And, that one selfish, devious act of Kaikeyi negated all other moments of affection and adherence to her husband and sons. While leaving for the forest, Ram had sought her blessings without any resentment. She had felt relieved then but his serene, unperturbed look had haunted her, ever since Dashrath's death. Dreading the thought of facing them but eagre to seek forgiveness, she joined the others at the main gate. She wished the whispers she had heard of Lord Vishnu being incarnated as Ram to kill evil forces were true; perhaps then his divine benevolence would redeem her karma.

Ram, Lakshman and Sita came in amidst jubilant cheers, drum beats and showers of flowers. They approached Kaikeyi to seek her blessings; her eyes locked with Ram's imploringly. She was shocked to see gratitude in them and genuine loving care. He seemed worried and aware of her turmoil. In that magical moment, she saw no need to seek forgiveness. It suddenly dawned on her that she was blessed to be an important pawn in the game of destiny. And, when Ram embraced her, Kaikeyi's burden of shame and shackles – all melted away in the form of incessant tears. She experienced the transformation of Ahalya she had heard about – from hard, heavy lifeless stone to a light, freely breathing human of flesh and blood. She knew she was finally redeemed, in mind and spirit!

SC allows green crackers in Delhi-NCR

Asks pollution boards to submit daily AQI reports till October 25

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Wednesday relaxed the ban on firecrackers in Delhi and the National Capital Region by allowing the sale of green crackers from October 18 to October 20 and their bursting on the day of Deepavali and a day before.

Putting in place a strict regime, a bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran said, "Bursting firecrackers is an expression of the festive spirit and it enhances the mood in religious and other auspicious ceremonies, embedded in the cultural milieu of India."

However, this cannot lead to a situation of long-term or even short-term health damage due to uncontrolled use, based on traditions and cultural or religious norms, the top court added.

"We cannot but reiterate, as this court held oftener than ever, that the commercial considerations and the festive spirit should take a back seat when it concerns the environment and health," the bench said.

The court, however, noted that over the six years, the green crackers have substantially reduced the emissions, and that the National Environment Engineering Research Institute, which is one of the most prestigious organisations dealing with environmental matters, has significantly contributed to such factor.

As a temporary measure, the court allowed relaxation only on a test case basis for a specified period and sought a report from the Central and State Pollution Control Boards after monitoring the air quality index in their respective jurisdictions on a day-to-day basis from October 14 to 25.

With the Centre and the Delhi government seeking relaxation of the ban, the bench said, "We have to take a balanced approach, taking into account the conflicting interests and permit in moderation, while not compromising the environmental concerns arising."

The court also noted that the firecracker industry has addressed a few concerns, and there is also the issue of the ban not having really put an end to the bursting of crackers, especially during festive days, when the conventional firecrackers are smuggled, which cause more damage than the green crackers now developed.

CONDITIONS APPLY

- Sale of green crackers allowed from October 18 to 20
- Use confined to specific hours on the day before and day of Deepavali
- Bursting allowed only between 6 am to 7 am, and 8 pm to 10 pm on the permitted days
- Sale of crackers permitted only from the designated locations in Delhi-NCR
- Police to constitute patrolling teams to keep a vigil on designated locations of sale.
- No sale of firecrackers through ecommerce networks
- Relaxation only on a "test case basis"

Sivakasi eyes market revival

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Though the Supreme Court lifting the ban on crackers in the Delhi-NCR area during Deepavali may not benefit them this festival season, fireworks manufacturers in Sivakasi on Wednesday welcomed the verdict, saying the industry hoped it would lead to additional employment and revenue if the relaxation continued in the years to come.

The manufacturers said they would not be able to ship any fresh goods from Sivakasi to Delhi-NCR, which comprises about 15% of the fireworks market, this Deepavali because the festival was just about a few days away. The transit period from Sivakasi to Delhi is about six days.

They added that the maximum that fireworks manufacturers could do at this stage would be to divert some portion of the stocks from other North Indian states to the Delhi-NCR market.

"This is fantastic news for the industry, which has been fighting one legal battle after another. If the order is made permanent, we can generate employment for lakhs of labourers," Tamil Nadu Fireworks and Amorces Manufacturers' Association President P Ganesan told *DH*.

Almost all manufacturers supplying to the Delhi-NCR market till 2018, the year the ban on crackers was imposed, had found other markets.

"So, if the SC allows bursting of crackers every year, many manufacturers will have to increase their production capacities from early 2026. This will give us additional revenue and help employ more people," explained Ganesan.

Sivakasi, which manufactures about 90% of the firecrackers sold in the country, shifted to green crackers — a fairly new concept — to reduce noise and air pollution after the Supreme Court in 2018 banned barium nitrate and recommended crackers that were less harmful to the environment.

The industry is worth about Rs 6,000 crore, and is now gearing up to export fireworks to other countries from the Chennai Port.

Firecracker manufacturers in Sivakasi said the new formula had resulted in a 30% reduction in noise compared to conventional crackers.

Pankaj Dheer, known for his role of 'Karna', dies at 68

MUMBAI, DHNS: Veteran actor Pankaj Dheer, popular for playing the role of Karna in BR Chopra's epic TV series Mahabharat, passed away in Mumbai on Wednesday after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was 68.

Pankaj Dheer

Dheer is survived by his wife, Anita Dheer, a costume designer; his son Nikitin, his daughter-in-law, Kartika Sengar, both of whom are actors; and his granddaughter, Devika Dheer.

Besides his role as Karna, Dheer is also known for portraying Raja Shiv Dutt in the fantasy drama *Chandrakanta*. He appeared in several Hindi films in supporting roles, including *Sadak*, *Soldier*, and *Baadshah*. He also directed the film *My Father Godfather*.

Dheer, who hailed from Punjab, was the son of filmmaker CL Dheer, who directed films such as the Geeta Bali-starrer *Bahu Beti and Zindagi*.

Trump attacks BRICS as India, Brazil look to boost trade ties

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Even as Donald Trump renewed his offensive on BRICS, Brazil's Vice-President Geraldo Alckmin arrived in India on Wednesday to discuss ways to expand bilateral trade, which the two nations — both founder members of the bloc — decided to raise to $20 billion annually within the next five years.

The high-level engagement is taking place even as the US President renewed his offensive against the 10-nation bloc.

"...I told anybody who wants to be in BRICS, that's fine, but we're going to put tariffs on your nation. Everybody dropped out. They're all dropping out of BRICS," Trump said during a meeting with Argentine President Javier Milei in White House in Washington on Tuesday.

"BRICS was an attack on the dollar," he added, using the past tense to refer to an organisation that would have its 18th summit in India in 2026.

The BRIC comprised Brazil, Russia, India and China till its first expansion to include South Africa in 2010-11. The bloc was then renamed as BRICS. It added Egypt, Iran, Ethiopia, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates as new members in 2023-24.

Argentina later withdrew its application for it after Javier Milei took over as its president in December 2023. Saudi Arabia delayed the process of joining the bloc, perceived as a counterweight to the G7. Indonesia joined the BRICS early this year.

Contrary to Trump's claim, no nation dropped out of BRICS after he returned to the White House as the 47th US President on January 20.

Trump's campaign against BRICS is likely to emerge as a new irritant in India's relations with the US, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to take over the bloc's chair from Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva next year.

Brazil is India's largest trade partner in South America. The meeting between Alckmin and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday is likely to focus on meeting the target set by Modi and Lula to raise the annual bilateral trade from $12.2 billion in 2024-25 to $20 billion over the next five years.

Both Brazil and India have been at the receiving end of the tariff wars of the US President.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

WHEN I FEEL STRESSED ABOUT SOMETHING, I JUST TURN TO THE ONE THING I LOVE THE MOST...BAKING!
THAT'S A GREAT ATTITUDE!
I THINK THAT'S A PRETTY HEALTHY WAY OF COPING
YEAH
SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED AN "EMOTIONAL SUPPORT CUPCAKE"!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

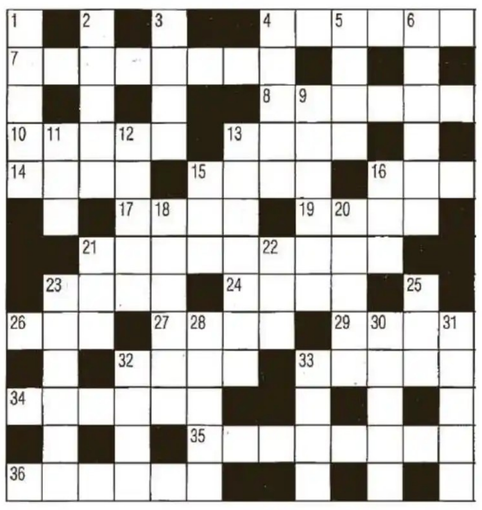
Peanuts

DO YOU REALIZE YOU JUST SLEPT THROUGH THE ENTIRE LESSON, SIR?
I DID? HOW EMBARRASSING!
AND WHEN YOU STARTED TO SNORE, EVERYBODY THOUGHT IT WAS A FIRE DRILL AND RAN OUTSIDE!
IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED, SIR!

Marvin

I'M GOING TO RUN SOME OF THIS OLD STUFF TO THE DONATION STORE
YOU'RE GOING? WHY NOT ASK JEFF TO DO IT?
BECAUSE WHEN I SEND JEFF, HE ALWAYS COMES BACK WITH MORE THAN I SENT WITH HIM

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12268



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
4 Furnish flexibly? (6)
7 Be very evident that corporal punishment is not allowed (5,3)
8 Song the man composed (6)
10 I've to return to court to get a tenant out (5)
13 Shot round the circuit in the city (4)
14 Point to the hollow heart of a woman! (4)
15 Look around very quietly for the pepper (4)
16 In camp, a guy may be attached to her (3)
17 School of Suetonius (4)
19 Girl one's crazy about (4)
21 Paddington's favourite sort of cat? (9)
23 Sir Thomas, joined by Stan at the tube station (4)
24 Bundle returned from the laboratory (4)
26 As used in writing a letter to N. Ireland? (3)
27 Not strong drink? (4)
29 A juicy lump, perhaps (4)
32 Many a poem has style (4)
33 Beryl's weight? (5)
34 It enriches, making a man timelessly secure (6)
35 Nevertheless finishing last? (5,3)
36 Figures in rugby (6)

DOWN
1 Pale in a feminine way (5)
2 Figures to be polite (5)
3 Sketch of a tow-headed runner (4)
4 Look askance at the rates (5)
5 It's a shame when piety lacks heart (4)
6 Looked knowingly before being led out (6)
9 Undistinguished little men (6)
11 Check out with some naivety (3)
12 Readily understood by many a listener (5)
13 It's justifiable for a girl to appear in a twisted belt (7)
15 Quiet order to a dog (3)
16 Soft, that is, though it may be crusty (3)
18 No great shakes on the Richter scale (6)
20 Masterly advert for a new pet (5)
21 Criminals in automobiles? (3)
22 For whom Los Angeles is at the back of beyond! (3)
23 Road rage, it seems, is just an illusion (6)
25 Short of funds, one can still have a good time (3)
28 Inspiration I had on the stormy sea (5)
30 It's refreshingly easy to reach (5)
31 They're cooked with love for me also (5)
32 Think about a heavenly female (4)
33 Start up and set out to get fat (4)

ACROSS
4 Find (6)
7 Wide view (8)
8 Slanting type (6)
10 Cut of beef (5)
13 Legal document (4)
14 Parsley, say (4)
15 Speech defect (4)
16 Beseech (3)
17 An enticement (4)
19 Therefore (4)
21 Crucial (9)
23 Ballet skirt (4)
24 Female sheep (4)
26 Wet spongy ground (3)
27 Mediocre (2-2)
29 Make with wool (4)
32 Jewels (4)
33 Wild animal (5)
34 Scanty (6)
35 Be successful (3,5)
36 Rupture (6)

DOWN
1 Foolish (5)
2 Enrage (5)
3 Long journey (4)
4 Dens (5)
5 Talk (4)
6 Clans (6)
9 Walk softly (6)
11 Golf peg (3)
12 Senior monk (5)
13 Observe (7)
15 Falsehood (3)
16 Public transport vehicle (3)
18 Entertains (6)
20 Arctic dog (5)
21 Drinking vessel (3)
22 Number (3)
23 Hairpiece (6)
25 Rubbish receptacle (3)
28 Greek letter (5)
30 Not ever (5)
31 Slow in developing (5)
32 Broad smile (4)
33 Cure (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12267

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Centre 7, Activity 8, Mast 10, Trumps 11, Sal-UK-i 14, Sea(-ted) 16, Re-p-el 17, Oats 19, Bared 21, Cubit 22, Fare-d 23, Play 26, Poser 28, She 29, U-TT-ers 30, Berate 31, U-tah 32, Te-thered 33, Shells.
DOWN: 1, Castro 2, Thames 3, Eats 4, Min-are-t 5, P-in-up 6, Cyril 8, Must 9, Spa(-in) 12, LED 13, Ke-nya 15, Label 18, Ascot 19, Bur 20, R-I'd 21, Car-ried 22, Fee(-L) 23, Phrase 24, Lea-H 25, Yields 26, Pu-n-ts 27, State 28, Set 30, Buds.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Preach 7, Unawares 8, Brat 10, Chairs 11, Satire 14, Rat 16, Tenor 17, Duel 19, Doyen 21, Paper 22, Rabat 23, Rasp 26, Latin 28, Tab 29, Animal 30, Govern 31, Omit 32, Tasteful 33, Fleshy.
DOWN: 1, Placid 2, Aerial 3, Huts 4, Sweater 5, Train 6, Aster 8, Bare 9, Art 12, Ten 13, Roams 15, Topaz 18, Urban 19, Dab 20, Yet 21, Panacea 22, Rim 23, Ravine 24, Abet 25, Pantry 26, Lasts 27, Tipsy 28, Tom 30, Golf.

◆SU-DO-KU-6727◆

	3				7		5	1
	8		6		9		3	2
						6		
			5			4	6	8
2	6	8			1			
		5						
8	1		9		3		4	
7	4		8				9	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6726

4	2	1	9	8	5	6	3	7
6	8	5	1	7	3	9	4	2
7	3	9	2	4	6	5	8	1
1	5	4	8	6	9	2	7	3
3	7	6	5	2	4	1	9	8
8	9	2	7	3	1	4	5	6
9	1	8	3	5	2	7	6	4
2	6	7	4	9	8	3	1	5
5	4	3	6	1	7	8	2	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

©2024 Mattel, SCRABBLE™ and SCRABBLE tiles, including S1 tiles, are trademarks of Mattel.

							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
S1	F4	N1	B3	F4	O1	I1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 2
U1	T1	J8	N1	E1	K5	S1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 3
E1	A1	N1	R1	L1	C3	T1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 4
E1	E1	T1	P3	F4	R1	C3		

PAR SCORE 205-215
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	A1	R1	C3	A1	S1	M3	RACK 1	= 67
V4	I1	S1	I1	T1	O1	R1	RACK 2	= 60
M3	A1	N1	C3	H4	E1		RACK 3	= 13
Y4	A1	C3	H4	T1	S1		RACK 4	= 22
							JUDD'S TOTAL	162

PAR SCORE 105-115

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

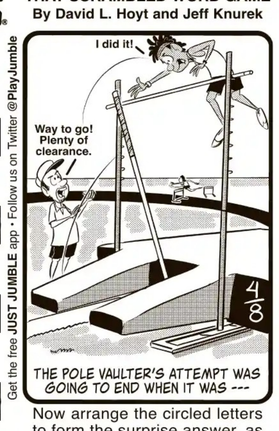
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VARWE

ZARRO

VIRTHE

CENRHD



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

©2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLEET HAPPY THRIFT SUBMIT
Answer: The letter "X" didn't mind being used as the multiplication sign — AT TIMES

HITORI-3181

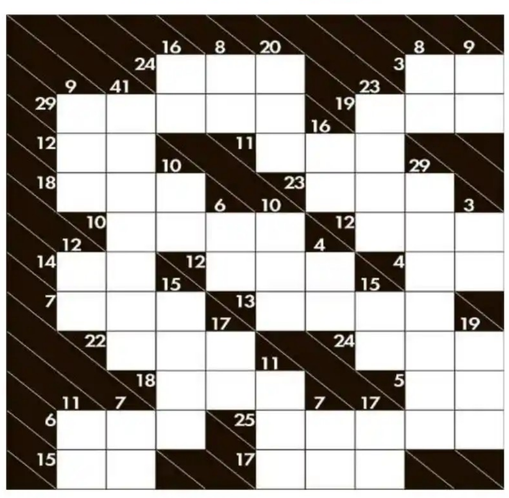
6	8	5	8	4	1	3	6
8	8	2	1	8	5	6	7
7	5	6	4	8	6	2	3
1	8	7	1	3	3	6	8
4	6	8	7	8	2	2	5
8	3	8	6	5	4	8	8
3	7	6	5	3	8	4	2
8	1	4	6	6	7	5	8

SOLUTION TO 3180

1	■	6	2	■	3	4	8
3	6	5	■	8	1	■	4
4	■	2	5	■	7	3	■
■	4	1	7	3	■	6	2
8	■	3	■	6	4	2	7
7	5	■	6	2	8	1	■
■	1	8	■	5	■	7	3
5	3	7	1	4	2	■	6

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3181



SOLUTION TO 3180

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3707

■	1		4					■
	■						1	
		■				■		9
			■	5	8	3		
		1	9	6		5		
			■		3			
	7	■	6			■		4
	■		2	1	4		■	3
■	2		5					■

SOLUTION TO 3706

7	1	3	8	6	5	9	4	2
2	9	8	4	1	3	7	6	5
4	6	5	7	2	9	1	3	8
5	3	6	2	9	4	8	1	7
1	8	2	6	3	7	5	9	4
9	4	7	5	8	1	6	2	3
6	2	9	3	7	8	4	5	1
3	7	4	1	5	6	2	8	9
8	5	1	9	4	2	3	7	6

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Tejashwi Yadav's Election Affidavit
Constituency: **Raghopur, Vaishali**
Age: **36 years**
Education: **Class IX Pass**
Criminal Cases: **18** (4 under appeal)

Rs 8.98 cr
Total Assets
Rs 6.12 crore
Movable Assets
Rs 1.88 crore
Immovable Properties

Family Assets
- Wife: **Rs 59.69 lakh**
- Two children: **Rs 40 lakh**

Gold & Silver Holdings
- Gold: 980 grams **Rs 83.93 lakh**
- Silver: 3.5 kg **Rs 1.97 lakh**

Declared Weapons & Valuables
- Italian-made Beretta Pistol (NPB 380 Bore)
- 50 rounds of ammunition

Family & Support
Filed nomination with
- Lalu Prasad (Father, RJD Chief)
- Rabri Devi (Mother)
- Misa Bharti (Sister & MP)
- Sanjay Yadav (RS MP)

"The upcoming elections are not just about changing the government but also transforming Bihar.

Seat standoff: I.N.D.I.A bloc yet to seal deal

Cong-RJD tussle over key seats; NDA faces discord too

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A public announcement on the seat-sharing arrangement continued to elude the I.N.D.I.A bloc on Wednesday, even as some candidates, including senior RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, filed their nominations and parties handed over symbols to candidates, amid chances of some alliance partners ending up in friendly fights in a couple of seats.

Sources said the Congress has been allocated 61 seats, two of which will go to the IP Gupta-led India Inclusive Party. The Congress is pushing for two more seats. The numbers for other parties are not immediately known.

On Wednesday night, the Bihar Congress' X handle posted images of B-Forms, which authorise the use of the party symbol, being handed over to 14 candidates by midnight, including Bihar Youth Congress chief Prakash Garib Das for Bachhwara, where the CPI has announced Abdesh Kumar Rai as its candidate. Rai had lost the seat by just 737 votes last time.

Bihar Congress chief Rajesh Ram will contest again from his sitting seat in Kutumba, while the party is also repeating candidates who had lost in previous polls. The Congress has not released a consolidated list yet.

It's not just the I.N.D.I.A bloc grappling with seat-sharing troubles. The NDA announced its arrangement on Sunday via an 'X' post, but a scheduled press conference on Monday was cancelled amid trouble in the alliance, especially over handing over 29 seats to the LJP. The JD(U), Upendra Kushwaha's RLSP and Jiten Ram Manjhi's HAM were unhappy with the decision.

The Congress continued its deliberations, with a sub-committee appointed by the Central Election Committee holding discussions to finalise candidates for around 10 seats that remained unresolved in its earlier sittings. It has given its green signal to around 75 names, pending a final list of around 60 after final discussions with the RJD.

BIHAR VOTES

A senior leader earlier said talks with the RJD were inconclusive, which is why it cleared more names with a caveat that the list will be declared only after reaching an agreement with the main partner in the alliance on the number of seats the Congress will contest.

Bihar Congress leaders, including state party chief Rajesh Ram and legislature party leader Shakeel Ahmad Khan, as well as in-charge Krishna Allavaru, flew back to Patna on Wednesday and held another round of discussion.

RJD and Congress are fighting over Kehalgav, Vaishali and Narkatiaganj.

"Some people are contesting two seats or three seats. Some people are unable to declare seats. Some people are having constant fights within their alliance about who will get what seat.

Shehzad Poonawalla
BJP national spokesperson

"Surprisingly, the courts, the ED and the CBI become active just before elections; we live in a democracy, where everyone should get equal opportunity – that's why the model code of conduct exists

Ashok Gehlot
Congress leader

"Whoever invites us in Bihar, we will go. We have said that we, the socialists, and the people here, defeated the BJP in Awadh. Now it is the responsibility of the people of Bihar to help.

Akhilesh Yadav
Samajwadi Party president

Bihar Poll-Pourri

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta during her visit to Patna, Lakhisarai, and Bihar Sharif ahead of the state Assembly elections. PTI

ALLIANCE WATCH

- Cong deliberations continue; CEC sub-committee discusses 10 unresolved seats
- RJD & Congress unwilling to concede Kehalgav, Vaishali and Narkatiaganj
- NDA rift: JD(U), RLSP, HAM upset over 29 seats given to LJP (Ram Vilas)
- I.N.D.I.A bloc filing nominations only in seats with consensus
- VIP likely to get 17-18 seats; CPI(ML)L candidates file for 18 seats

In the fray

Vijay Kumar Sinha (BJP) Lakhisarai

Anand Mishra (BJP) Buxar

Anant Singh (JDU) Mokama

Umesh Kushwaha (JDU) Mahnar

Raju Tiwari LJP (Ram Vilas) Govindpur

Om Prakash Garg (Cong) Gopalganj

Jitrendra Singh (Cong) Amarpur

Amita Bhushan (Cong) Begusarai

Lalan Kumar (Cong) Sultanganj

BJP names 101 candidates

NEW DELHI, DHNS & PTI

The BJP on Wednesday evening released its third list of 18 candidates for Bihar polls, fielding Bina Devi from Kochadhaman seat and Sangeeta Kumari from Mohania, which is reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

According to the list, Sanjay Pandey will contest from Narkatiaganj seat, Satish Kumar Yadav from Raghopur, and Bharat Bind from Bhabua.

Murari Paswan will join the fray from Pirpainti, an SC seat, while Ashok Kumar Singh will contest from Ramgarh assembly constituency.

With this, the BJP has announced its candidates for a total of 101 seats.

Earlier in the day, the party released its second list of 12 candidates, fielding singer Maithili Thakur and former IPS officer Anand Mishra.

The BJP has fielded Thakur, who is in her 20s, from the Alinagar constituency, eyeing the Maithili vote bank in the Mithilanchal region. She joined the BJP on Tuesday.

Another prominent face is Anand Mishra, a former IPS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre. He resigned from service in January 2024 and contested the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections from Buxar as an independent. He has been fielded from the Buxar Assembly seat.

Other candidates include Chhoti Kumari from Chhapra, Virendra Kumar from Rosra, Ram Chandra Prasad from Hayaghat, and Vinay Kumar Singh from Sonepur.

The list featured nine new faces, as three three sitting MLAs were dropped.

Tejashwi files papers from Raghopur; Kishor opts out

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

RJD leader and Leader of the Opposition in Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav, filed his nomination papers on Wednesday from the Raghopur constituency in Vaishali. He dismissed speculation that he might contest from two seats. "I've been contesting and winning from Raghopur since 2015, and I will contest from this seat only," said Tejashwi, who is eyeing a hat-trick.

He submitted his papers in Hajipur, accompanied by his parents Lalu and Rabri Devi. Raghopur is regarded as the Lalu's bastion.

Meanwhile, Jan Suraaj leader Prashant Kishor, who had dropped ample hints about challenging Tejashwi in his stronghold, withdrew from the poll race and instead fielded the lesser-known Chanchal Singh against him. Chanchal, was a former general secretary of the JD(U).

The NDA, which, like the Mahagathbandhan, is grappling with internal dissensions, is yet to announce its candidate against Tejashwi.

"The JD(U) is no longer being run by Nitish Kumar. It's controlled by Sanjay Jha, Lalan Singh and Vijay Choudhary. These three have been 'managed' by the BJP leadership. The people of Bihar are watching closely and will avenge Nitish's humiliation through their votes," Tejashwi said.

NIRAJ KUMAR
Bihar BJP spokesperson

"Kishor's bubble burst even before the elections. By announcing that he won't contest, he has admitted defeat for himself and his party.

With only two days left before nominations close on October 17 for the first phase of elections — covering 121 seats on November 6 — the Mahagathbandhan is yet to finalise its seat-sharing arrangement. "A final pact will be reached very soon," Tejashwi said.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav files nomination from Raghopur constituency. PTI

To focus on party: Kishor

Kishor said he would devote his time and energy to campaigning for his party's nominees. "We have set a target of winning 150 seats. Anything less will be considered a defeat for our party," he said.

Kishor had claimed that if he contested from Raghopur, Tejashwi would be forced to flee to a safer seat, predicting that the RJD scion would meet the same fate as Rahul Gandhi, who lost the Amethi seat in 2019.

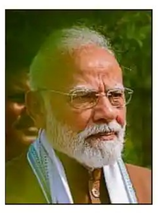
Poll diary

CPI(ML)L condemns arrest

Jitendra Paswan

The CPI(ML)L on Wednesday condemned the arrest of party leaders Satyadeo Ram and Jitendra Paswan right after they filed their nomination papers for the Bihar election, saying they were booked under "fabricated and baseless" charges. It accused the Bihar government of resorting to political repression and intimidation.

Modi interacts with party workers



Prime Minister Narendra Modi kick-started his campaign for the Bihar Assembly elections with an interactive session with booth-level workers. Giving them the slogan 'Ekjut NDA, ekjut Bihar' (United NDA, united Bihar), Modi asked the workers to double their efforts to ensure the win of every NDA candidate.

Cash, liquor worth Rs 33 cr seized

Enforcement agencies have seized cash, drugs, liquor and freebies worth Rs 33.97 crore in Bihar over the past nine days after elections were announced in the state, the EC said on Wednesday. The poll body stressed that authorities should ensure ordinary citizens are not inconvenienced or harassed during checking and inspection.

Voter slips, ballot papers in Braille

Visually impaired voters in Bihar will be provided dummy ballot papers and voter slips in Braille, the EC said. The ballot paper pasted on the EVMs will also be available at the polling stations in Braille. It said visually impaired voters will be provided with regular as well as Braille voter information slips, which have details of the polling station.

Telangana CM's prosecution unsustainable, counsel tells SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Wednesday contended before the Supreme Court that his prosecution in the 2015 cash-for-vote case was unsustainable as the trap laid by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) was "completely illegal" since it was done without any FIR.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Vijay Bishnoi heard the matter involving Reddy as an accused in the corruption case and fixed it for Thursday for further hearing.

The matter concerned allegations of offering a bribe to then MLA Elvis Stephenson during the MLC polls. The bribe was purportedly aimed at securing Stephenson's vote for the TDP, of which Revanth Reddy was then a member. He claimed innocence in the case.

Zubeen's fans clash with police; vehicles set ablaze, internet suspended

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

A violent protest erupted outside Baksa District Jail in Assam after five accused in the Zubeen Garg death case were brought to the jail.

Several police personnel and journalists were injured in the stone pelting, and police resorted to lathicharge and firing of tear gas shells to control the mob. Two police vehicles were set on fire during the clash, a police official said.

Additional forces were rushed to the spot, and the administration temporarily suspended mobile internet in the Baksa district and prohibited gatherings as a preventive measure.

The five were shifted from Guwahati to Baksa jail after they were produced in a court following the expiry of their 14-day police remand on Wednesday.

A vehicle set ablaze by protesters lies on a roadside after an agitated mob hurled stones at convoy carrying five accused arrested in Zubeen Garg's death case in Baksa, Assam. PTI

The five include Shyamkanu Mahanta, the organiser of the Northeast India Festival in Singapore; Zubeen's manager Siddharth Sharma; his cousin Sandipan Garg; and two PSOs, Nandeswar Bora and Paresh Baishya.

Two of Zubeen's bandmates, musician Shekhar Jyoti Goswami and singer Amritprabha Mahanta, are in SIT remand.

The SIT added a murder charge against Shyamkanu and Siddharth after Shekhar alleged that the duo had poisoned Garg, which led to his death on September 19.

Reports of two post-mortems have not yet been made public.

Advocate Pradip Konwar, who appeared in court on behalf of the government on Wednesday, told reporters that the five were remanded to judicial custody as they had not filed bail petitions.

He said the court issued the order for shifting them to the jail in Baksa after the government expressed concerns over their safety in Guwahati jail.

The violent protest erupted amid an online campaign #ZusticeForZubeen and an agitation demanding justice for Garg's family and fans.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa alleged that Zubeen's fans were being incited by the Opposition for political mileage in the run-up to the Assembly elections.

The Opposition parties have been demanding that the inquiry be handed over to the CBI, while the government and the SIT have stated that the investigation was on the right track.

Kenya ex-PM dies in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Former prime minister of Kenya, Raila Odinga, who was undergoing treatment in Kerala, died on Wednesday morning.

Odinga (80) reportedly collapsed around 8 am while on a morning walk at the Sreedhareeyam Ayurvedic Eye Hospital and Research Centre at Koothatukulam, a suburb of Kochi.

Though he was rushed to a nearby hospital, he breathed his last by 9.52 am. His mortal remains were being handed over to Kenyan embassy officials in Kochi after a post-mortem examination. The body would then be taken to Mumbai and from there to Kenya.

Police sources said the post-mortem examination was conducted to avoid any issues in future.

Those associated with the Kenayan leader also wished for the post-mortem examination to be conducted, said a police officer.

Hospital sources said Odingo, who was the Opposition leader, was accompanied by his daughter, sister, and a personal doctor.

Minor stroke

Odingo reached the hospital on Friday for treatment for recovery from a minor stroke he suffered in Kenya. He was in a wheelchair when he reached the hospital.

Raila Odinga

Following the last few days of treatment, the Kenayan leader was showing improvement by walking short distances.

Odingo's daughter, Rosemary, had earlier undergone treatment at the same ayurvedic hospital for vision problems. She recovered her vision following treatment in 2019.

Odingo had also visited the hospital earlier as part of his daughter's treatment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had even highlighted it in a "Mann Ki Baat" episode.

Restrictions lifted from Leh after 22 days

LEH/JAMMU, PTI: Authorities on Wednesday lifted the restrictions in Leh district of Ladakh, 22 days after they were imposed following violence during the statehood protests that left four people dead and over 80 others injured.

The district administration had, on September 24, promulgated prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS in Leh, banning the assembly of five or more persons.

No incident of violence had been reported since then, officials said.

The district magistrate said certain restrictions were imposed to prevent any breach of peace and disturbance to public tranquillity.

Police arrested Sonam Wangchuk on September 26, two days after clashes between security forces and protesters demanding Ladakh's statehood.

Will abandon: UP Guv warns girls on 'love jihad'

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Days after asking girls to stay away from live-in relationships, warning that they might otherwise be found in "50 pieces", Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel on Wednesday waded into the "love jihad" controversy, cautioning girls against those who looked for opportunities to go out with them after changing their names.

Speaking at the second convocation ceremony of Raj Mahendra Pratap Singh University at Aligarh, Patel also asked parents to question boys if they returned home late at night.

Anandiben Patel

Apparently referring to "love jihad", Anandiben said some people would try to "lure you (girls) by changing their names and will abandon you once they have achieved their purpose".

"Naam badal kar sair karne ka mauka talashne walon se vishesh satark rahen (Be more alert about those who change their names and look for opportunities to go on outings)," she said.

"Daughters will have to be more alert about their security," she added.

"Parents question their daughters even when they return home by 8 pm, but don't question their sons even if they come at midnight... They will have to change their mentality and question their sons as well if they return home late," said the Governor.

The Governor also advised the students to shun shortcuts and said they must be ready to work hard for success.

DELIVERY DEFICIT

Omar faces growing disenchantment as NC completes 1 year

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

As Omar Abdullah's government completes its first year in office, the National Conference (NC) finds itself navigating a widening gap between political rhetoric and administrative reality.

The party's 2024 manifesto — "Dignity, Identity, and Development" — had raised expectations of a decisive turnaround for Jammu and Kashmir. A year later, those expectations have largely given way to disenchantment and growing scepticism about the government's capacity to deliver.

For a party that returned to power on an emotional plank — the promise to fight for restoring J&K's pre-August 2019 status and reclaim its political dignity — the first year has been underwhelming.

Omar Abdullah

Of the 12 headline pledges listed in its manifesto, only a symbolic legislative resolution seeking the restoration of Articles 370 and 35A features in the NC government's report card. The rest remain trapped in files, committees, and competing narratives.

While Omar Abdullah has defended the government's record, saying that "course correction takes time," the NC's early performance has raised doubts about its strategic direction.

"The government appears torn between managing daily governance and delivering on its larger ideological promise," said Rameez Makhdoomi, a political observer. "So far, it has achieved neither convincingly." The continuation of detentions under the Public Safety Act — including the arrest of an AAP legislator has deepened the perception that the NC has retreated from its reformist rhetoric.

The government's repeated assurances to review the PSA, release political prisoners, and initiate reconciliation measures have failed to translate into policy action.

Discontent runs deeper

On the economic front, discontent runs deeper. The promise to create one lakh jobs within six months through Youth Employment Generation Act has not even reached the drafting stage.

Analysts say the government must move from managing optics to managing outcomes. "Omar cannot afford another year of symbolic politics," said a senior journalist.

"People have heard enough about dignity; they now want delivery."

NICE road to development

Curated by DH Brandspot

Ashok Kheny receives South Indian Business Achievers Award

Ashok Kheny, Managing Director, Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd, receives the South Indian Business Achievers Award from His Excellency **Dr Ahmed Abdulrahman Albanna,** Chairman – AAG and former UAE Ambassador to India.

This award presented by South PowerList 100 recognises **Ashok Kheny** as one of the most influential south Indian individuals shaping the world

A distinguished visionary and leader in infrastructure development and public service, Ashok Kheny, Chairman and Managing Director, Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd (NICE), received the South Indian Business Achievers Award (SIBA) in Dubai recently. The award presented by South PowerList 100 recognises Ashok Kheny as 'one of the most influential south Indian individuals shaping the world'.

The award was presented at a glittering ceremony held in Dubai on September 7, 2025, coinciding with the global South Indian International Weekend.

The South PowerList 100 honours pioneers in business, government service, science, culture and social change. Ashok Kheny's inclusion acknowledges his relentless commitment to excellence, innovation and sustainable development. Known for spearheading transformative projects such as the NICE Ring Road, Ashok Kheny has played a pivotal role in catalysing regional growth and connectivity.

Speaking at the event, Ashok Kheny said, "This honour reflects not just my journey but the collective effort of countless individuals committed to progress. I am humbled to represent south India on this global stage and remain dedicated to driving purposeful change."

This recognition further highlights Ashok Kheny's stature as a transformative leader whose vision continues to inspire and impact communities across India and abroad.

Ashok Kumar Kheny: A visionary

In the rapidly-evolving landscape of urban India, infrastructure is the backbone of growth. Roads, bridges and transport networks not only connect places but also drive economic progress, improve efficiency and enhance the quality of life for the people.

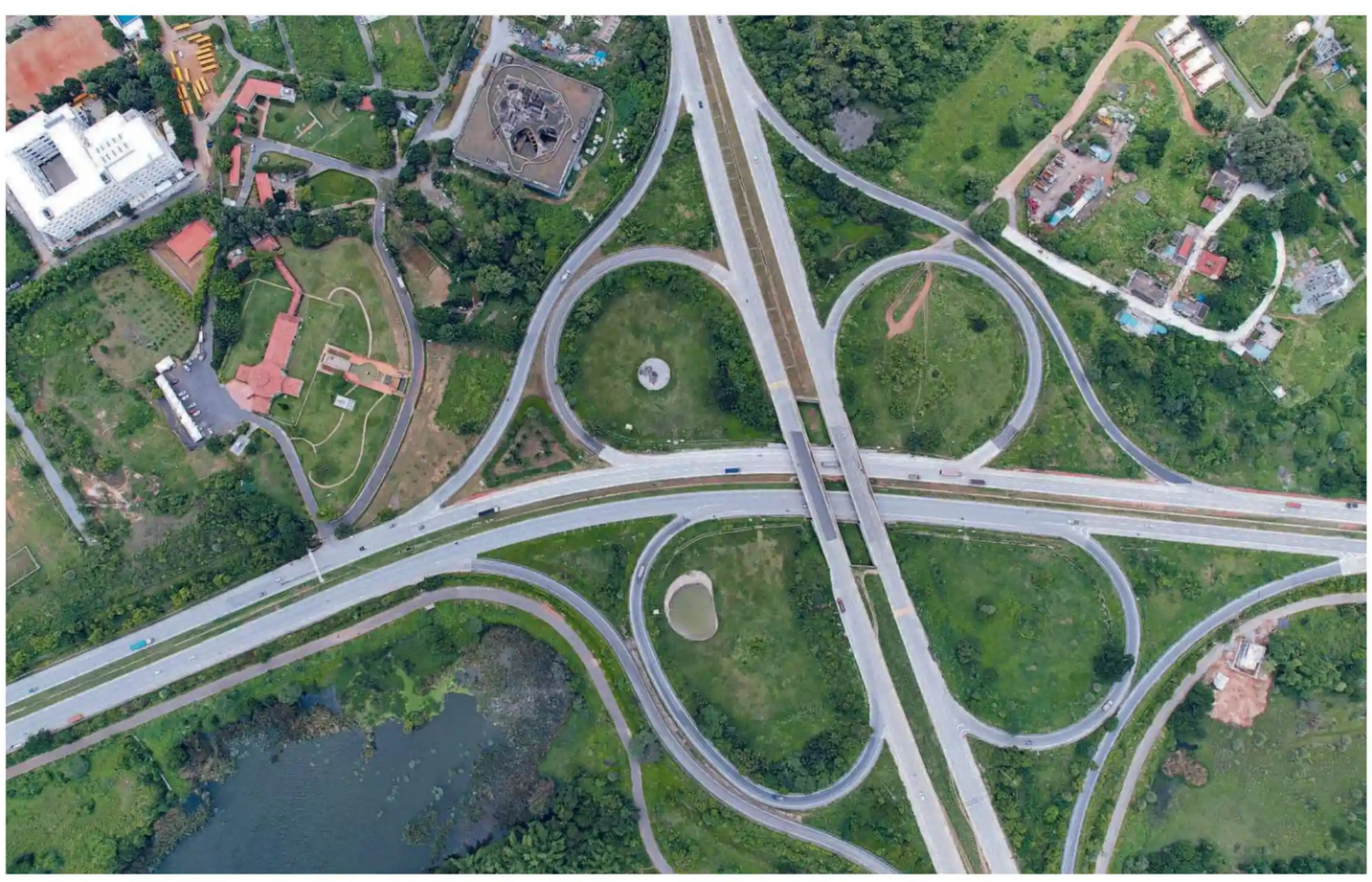
Among the leaders who have dedicated their vision and expertise to reshaping Bengaluru's urban framework, Ashok Kheny stands tall. As the Managing Director of Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise (NICE) and a former Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Bidar South, Ashok Kheny has consistently demonstrated that progressive infrastructure can transform a city and its people.

NANDI: A trademark point

A giant Nandi, standing 50 metres tall, is the iconic project office building of NICE. The planned office, in the form of Nandi, represents the values of social reformer Basavanna. Located strategically, it will offer a 360-degree view of Bengaluru.

This iconic building will feature LED lighting at vantage positions to depict events of national and cultural significance such as Independence Day, Republic Day, Diwali, Christmas and more.

Pioneering infra for a progressive Bengaluru



The cloverleaf interchange at Somapura makes NICE Road seamless in connectivity and a pleasure to drive on

The NICE Road project, under the leadership of Ashok Kheny, has been a game-changer. Acting as a vital arterial road of Bengaluru, it has eased congestion by diverting heavy traffic away from the city's core, reduced travel times significantly, and created seamless connectivity between industrial hubs, residential zones and highways.

The project stands as a symbol of how long-term planning and engineering excellence can reshape the growth trajectory of a metropolitan city.

Vision for infrastructure development

Ashok Kheny's philosophy of infrastructure development rests on three pillars - innovation, foresight and sustainability. He believes Bengaluru, as the IT capital of India, requires world-class infrastructure to keep pace with its economic growth. The city's rapid expansion has led to crippling traffic congestion and overburdened road networks. Recognising this, Ashok Kheny envisioned roadways that not only solve today's problems but also anticipate the challenges of tomorrow.

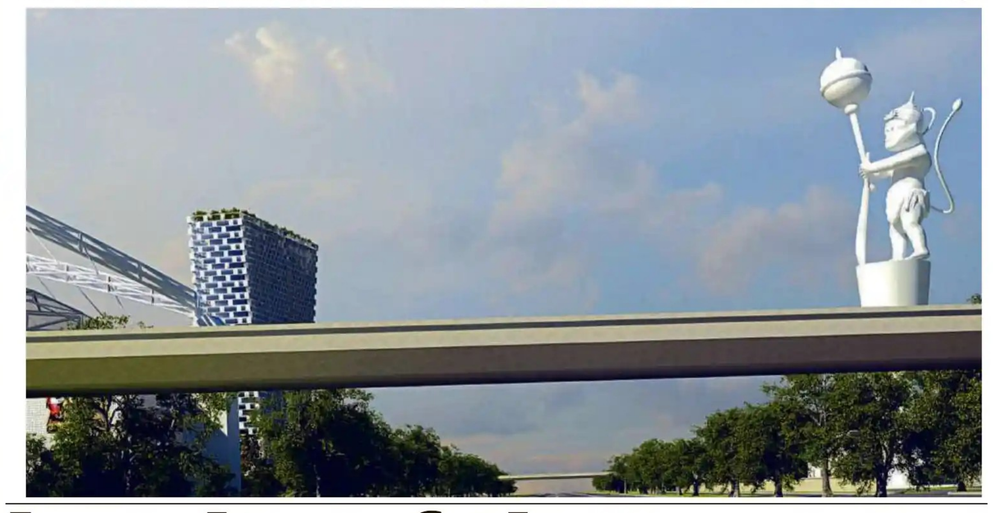
Ashok Kheny's approach to projects is meticulous. A graduate in electrical engineering, he has the ability to analyse every component of a strategy - both from part to whole and whole to part - ensuring that no loose ends exist. This technical insight, combined with his out-of-the-box thinking, enables him to design road infrastructure that is future-ready, resilient and scalable.

For Ashok Kheny, infrastructure has always been more than just highways. His vision extends to integrated urban ecosystems built around the interchanges of the NICE Road. He imagined these interchanges not only as points of connectivity but also as hubs of growth and opportunity.

Sports City

One of his boldest ideas was to establish a Sports City along the corridor - a world-class venue for training, tournaments and international sporting events. Such a facility would not only promote sports culture in Karnataka but also position Bengaluru as a global destination for athletics and recreation.

A multi-purpose stadium (TOP) and sports training facility in the form of Lord Hanuman. The mace, accessible to visitors, offers a 360° view of the city.

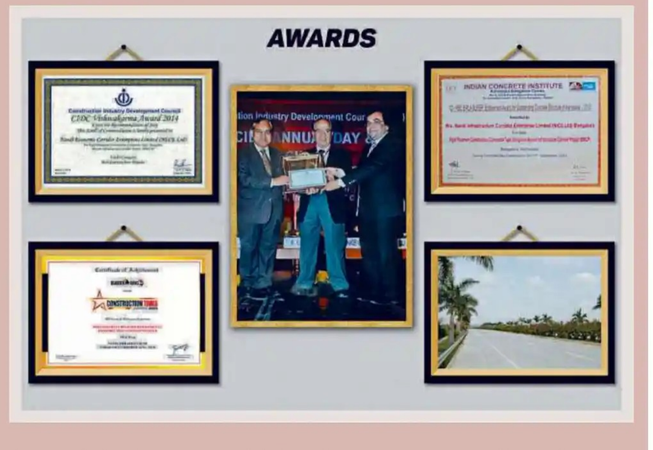


Recognition and awards

Ashok Kheny's pioneering work in infrastructure has been widely recognised both in India and abroad. His leadership of the NICE Road project and his broader vision for development have earned him numerous accolades.

Here are some:

- KBC Birla Super Endowment Award for Outstanding Concrete Structure of Karnataka (2013)
- 6th CIDC Vishwakarma Award (2014)
- Construction Times Award (2024)
- CIDC Vishwakarma Award (2025)
- South Indian Business Award for excellence in infrastructure and leadership



Beyond India, his contributions have been acknowledged on the world stage. In 1987, Ashok Kheny received the prestigious U.S. Presidential Award from former US president Ronald Reagan – 'Outstanding Businessman of the Year of a Minority Community Award'. This rare honour highlighted his success as a global entrepreneur.

He has also been honoured with the 'Fellow Award' from the World Academy of Productive Sciences, Canada, recognising his vision and achievements in advancing infrastructure and productivity on an international scale.

These awards collectively showcase Ashok Kheny's engineering excellence, leadership and global impact - establishing him as not just a national figure in infrastructure, but an international achiever.

Leader of the masses

While Ashok Kheny is widely known for his achievements in infrastructure development in Bengaluru, his political career as the MLA of Bidar South also left a lasting mark, particularly in the Hyderabad–Karnataka region, one of the most backward areas of the State. This region was neglected and lacked development. It faced challenges such as lack of connectivity, poor educational infrastructure and limited job opportunities. Ashok Kheny made it his mission to bridge this development gap.

Among his many contributions as MLA, Bidar South, are:

Connectivity: He improved road and transport connectivity within Bidar South, ensuring remote villages had access to markets, healthcare and schools.

Basic infrastructure: He pushed the case for investments in basic infrastructure such as drinking water, power supply and roads, which uplifted the daily lives of thousands of families.

Education: He supported educational initiatives and vocational training programmes to empower the youth of the region.

Campaign for special status: He highlighted the need of special status for Hyderabad–Karnataka under Article 371(J), and ensured the region received policy attention and resources from the government.

Bridging politics, development

Ashok Kheny's tenure in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly enriched his vision of development. Representing Bidar South gave him firsthand knowledge of governance challenges and the aspirations of the masses in both rural and urban landscapes. He combined his political experience with his business acumen effectively to navigate regulatory frameworks and push for policies that supported large-scale infrastructure projects.

His political background gave him a unique edge - the ability to align private enterprise initiatives with public policy objectives.

Paving the road to the future of Karnataka

Curated by DH Brandspot

Social responsibility: A masterclass

A temple of Lord Basaveshwara has been renovated at Varahasandra. This temple, in the Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor, is now visited by people from the surrounding localities. The corridor has many such projects within that speak of the concern of Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd for the local culture and heritage. This temple now wears a new look and is sturdy, set to be a permanent part of the corridor.

Layout with all amenities

The project involved acquisition of land. Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd developed a layout and built houses to be allotted to those whose land was acquired for the infrastructure corridor. The layout comes with high quality asphalted roads, underground pipes for water and power connections, a sewage treatment plant and treated water for every home for use in the garden, and all civic amenities.

Sturdy homes have been built with all facilities - all the owners need to do is move in. Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd is awaiting the government's nod to hand over the ownership documents and possession of property to the owners.

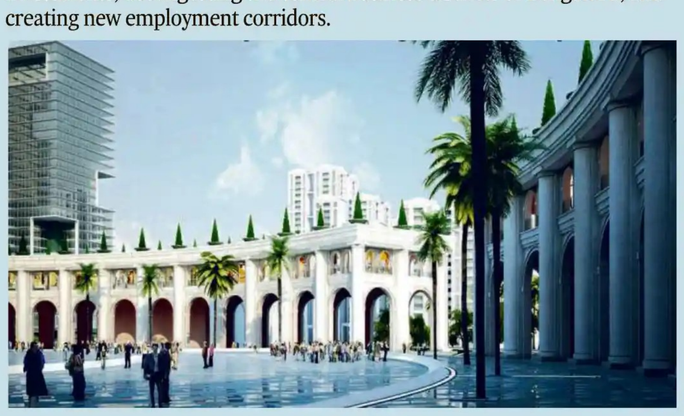
Sites waiting to be distributed...

Despite the project's potential to transform Karnataka, particularly the Bengaluru-Mysuru region, vested family interests have hindered its progress. Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd (NICE Ltd) is deeply committed to those whose land has been acquired for the project and developed state-of-the-art residential layouts with all utilities and services as a part of its rehabilitation and resettlement package, immediately on transfer of land to the project and all approvals received for the layout. However, vested family interests in power have stopped the distribution of the developed sites to the allotees for decades, just to instigate the allotees against NICE Ltd.

Community spaces, social infrastructure

Community spaces: These community spaces will blend education, healthcare, entertainment zones, food courts, sports and leisure facilities to create holistic urban communities.

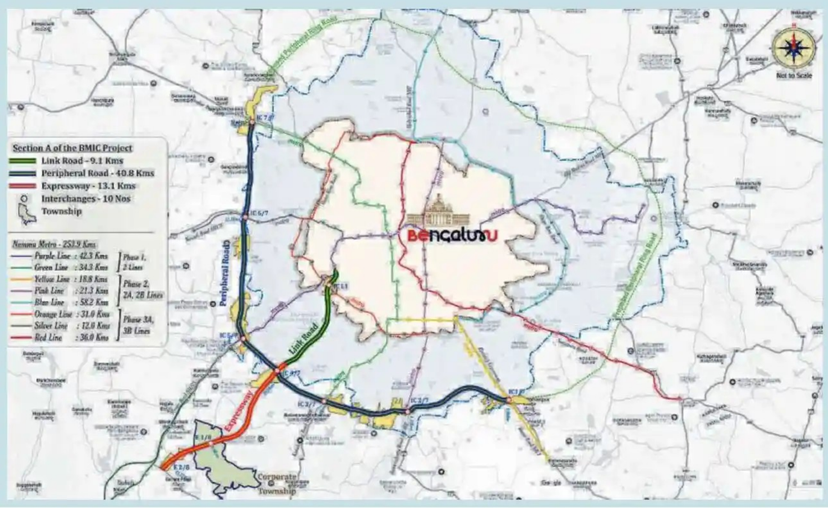
Social infrastructure: By developing business hubs and commercial complexes along the NICE Road, Ashok Kheny aimed at attracting investments, decongesting the central business districts of Bengaluru, and creating new employment corridors.



Monsoon Breeze: An integrated development in the Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor. Such developments make the corridor a convenient work-live-play destination.

Namma Metro on Namma NICE

The Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd (NICE Ltd), the project company, has proposed to construct a Metro line along the median of its peripheral road to connect the different phases of the radiating Namma Metro network. NICE Ltd submitted proposals to the State government for approval, and if the proposals are approved and implemented, the overall livability index of Bengaluru will be significantly enhanced.


Section A of the BMIC Project
Link Road - 9.1 Kms
Peripheral Road - 49.8 Kms
Expressway - 13.1 Kms
Interchanges - 10 Nos
Township
Namma Metro - 253.9 Kms
Purple Line : 42.3 Kms
Green Line : 34.5 Kms
Yellow Line : 19.8 Kms
Pink Line : 21.3 Kms
Blue Line : 58.2 Kms
Orange Line : 31.0 Kms
Silver Line : 12.0 Kms
Red Line : 36.0 Kms
Phase 1, 2 Lines
Phase 2, 2A, 2B Lines
Phase 3A, 3B Lines
Not to Scale
Bengaluru
Peripheral Road
Link Road
Corporate & Logistics Township

'Ashok Kheny's encouragement and empathy fostered creativity...'

Some quotes from employees of Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd who have worked on the NICE Road project

"Ashok Kheny has always stressed on employee safety and welfare, ensuring medical check-ups and support. His proactive approach during emergencies, whether arranging transport or meals, reflects an unwavering responsibility towards his team and inspired confidence through the highs and lows of the NICE Road project.

"Ashok Kheny's unwavering determination shaped our work culture. His vision and encouragement through obstacles inspired loyalty and resilience, helping every team member see roadblocks as opportunities raising the bar for both innovation and unity on the NICE Road project.

"Ashok Kheny worked tirelessly on the NICE Road project, leading by example through his punctuality and meticulous attention to detail. Witnessing our leader's dedication firsthand made us proud, reinforcing the values of hard work, integrity and professionalism among employees at every level.

A transit hub in the making

State-of-the-art transport infrastructure, including a bus and truck terminus, is planned in a hub-and-spoke model at the Link Road Interchange area to help decongest Bengaluru

Connecting transport within easy reach is a pleasure for all commuters. It makes life easy. When you have a state-of-the-art transit hub that integrates Namma Metro, bus terminal and roads, commuting across the city is a breeze. This transit hub has been planned with two levels to accommodate a large number of busses and a Metro Rail terminal. A part of the Bangalore Mysore Infrastructure Corridor, it is a model transit hub – just the solution the city needs.

This state-of-the-art transit hub integrating Namma Metro, bus and road networks makes it easy for commuters to use multi-mode transport and reach destinations across the city and even state conveniently without depending on private transport. This facility, a part of the NICE Road defines what a transport hub should be.

Facility for expos and conferences

The Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), already constructed at the Tumakuru Road Interchange area (7/7), is the largest conference and exhibition centre in all of south India and is well-connected to the Multi-Modal Logistics Park

The BIEC has been hosting conferences, expos and social events ever since its launch. It has been a model development drawing enterpreneurs and delegates. The space has also been used for many flagship entertainment events.

BIEC is a convenient facility with state-of-the-art infrastructure for conferencing as well as social get-togethers. It is well connected with the NICE Road and will soon have the additional Metro Rail connectivity once the development over NICE Road is commissioned. This centre with ample parking and abundant spaces around is one of the best facilities in the state of Karnataka.

Post
Mohandas Pai
@TVMohandasPai
Follow
Minister @DKShivakumar The NICE road is the BEST ROAD EVER BUILT IN CITY, no potholes, smooth fast traffic. Please invite Ashok Kheny to rebuild the ORR to global specification and maintain it not the usual corrupt pothole creating contractors.
CITIZENS WILL BE GRATEFUL TO YOU.
@CMofKarnataka @siddaramaiah @shalinirajnish @kiranshaw @rk_misra @TheTanveerAhmed @Tejasvi_Surya @PCMohanMP @hd_kumaraswamy WE WANT WORLD CLASS ROADS HERE LIKE NICE ROAD @iamashokkheny

GLOBAL MOBILITY POWER

India falls to 85th rank in 2025 Henley Passport Index

Singapore tops global passport ranking; US drops out of top 10

SINGAPORE, PTI

India has fallen to the 85th position in the 2025 Henley Passport Index, offering visa-free access to 57 countries. Last year, the Indian passport ranked 80th, allowing visa-free travel to 62 destinations.

Singapore continues to hold the title of the world's most powerful passport, offering visa-free access to 193 countries. South Korea ranks second this year with 190 destinations, while Japan stands third, allowing travel to 189 countries.

Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Switzerland share the fourth rank, each providing visa-free access to 188 countries. Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland and the Netherlands occupy fifth place, offering travel without a visa to 187 destinations.

Hungary, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal and Sweden are jointly ranked sixth with visa-free access to 186 countries. Australia, Czechia, Malta and Poland share the seventh rank, offering access to 185 countries.

The eighth spot is held jointly by Croatia, Estonia, Slovakia, Slovenia, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom, each providing visa-free entry to 184 destinations. Canada is in ninth place with access to 183 countries, while Latvia and Liechtenstein complete the top 10 with visa-free access to 182 nations.

The United States ranks 12th alongside Malaysia, each offering visa-free access to 180 countries. This marks the first time the US has fallen out of the top 10 in the index.

Last year, the top spot was shared by France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Singapore, each offering visa-free travel to 194 destinations, while the US was in seventh place with access to 188 countries.

In the 2025 ranking, India shares the 85th position with Mauritania. Among the countries not requiring a visa for Indian passport holders are Angola, Barbados, Bhutan, Bolivia, the British Virgin Islands, Burundi, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

In South Asia, Pakistan ranks 103rd with visa-free access to 31 countries, Bangladesh 100th with 38, Nepal 101st with 36, and Bhutan 92nd with 50 visa-free destinations. Sri Lanka is placed 98th, granting its citizens access to 41 destinations.

Afghanistan remains the world's weakest passport, offering visa-free access to only 24 countries, followed by Syria and Iraq with 26 and 29 destinations respectively.

The Henley Passport Index is a global ranking that measures the mobility freedom offered by passports to their holders. It was launched in 2005 as the Henley & Partners Visa Restrictions Index and was rebranded as the Henley Passport Index in January 2018.

India elected to UN Human Rights Council for seventh time

NEW YORK, PTI: India has been elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2026-28 term, marking the country's seventh stint on the Geneva-based rights body.

Announcing the results of the election held on Tuesday, the UNHRC in a social media post said India's three-year term will begin on January 1, 2026. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Parvathaneni Harish, in a social media post, thanked all delegations for their overwhelming support. "India was elected to the Human Rights Council for the term 2026-28 for the seventh time today," he said.

This election, the diplomat said, reflects India's unwavering commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms. "We look forward to serve this objective during our tenure," he said.

The UN Human Rights Council consists of 47 member states elected by the UN General Assembly for three-year terms under equitable geographic distribution rules. Council seats are allocated to the five regional groups as follows: African States, 13 seats; Asia-Pacific States, 13 seats; Eastern European States, 6 seats; Latin American and Caribbean States, 8 seats; and Western European and other States, 7 seats.

End war with Ukraine now, US tells Russia

We will impose costs on Russia if it does not end Ukraine war: Hegseth

BRUSSELS, REUTERS

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth warned Moscow on Wednesday that the United States and its allies would "impose costs on Russia for its continued aggression" if the war in Ukraine does not end soon.

"If we must take this step, the US War Department stands ready to do our part in ways that only the United States can," Hegseth said at a meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group, held at Nato headquarters in Brussels.

Hegseth did not elaborate further. His comments came as President Donald Trump's administration considers a request from Ukraine for long-range Tomahawk missiles.

"Now is the time to end this tragic war, stop the needless bloodshed, and come to the peace table," Hegseth urged.

"This is not a war that started on President Trump's watch, but it will end on his watch."

Hegseth also called on Nato allies to increase spending on US-made weapons for Ukraine, following a recent report that highlighted a sharp drop in Western military aid to Kyiv during July and August.

"You get peace when you are strong—not when you use strong words or wag your fingers. You get it when you have real capabilities that adversaries respect," he told reporters earlier in the day at Nato headquarters.

He urged allies to expand their investment in the Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List programme, which replaced direct US arms donations to Ukraine and now requires partner nations to fund American weapons deliveries. "Our expectation today is that more countries donate even more—that they purchase even more—to provide for Ukraine and bring this conflict to a peaceful conclusion."

Nato Secretary-General Mark Rutte said he expected further pledges, noting that around $2 billion had already been committed through the mechanism.

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth (centre), flanked by US Ambassador to Nato Matthew Whitaker (right), and Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte, arrives in Brussels on Wednesday. AFP

PUSHING ALLIES

- Sweden, Estonia, and Finland pledged contributions, but major powers like France and Britain have yet to commit, despite Hegseth urging all Nato allies to participate.
- Hegseth emphasised that Nato countries must turn words into action, warning against "free riders" at the Contact Group meeting.

US military asks Hamas to stop shooting civilians

WASHINGTON, AFP: The top US commander in the Middle East demanded Wednesday that Hamas stop shooting Palestinian civilians after the militant group held public executions of alleged collaborators.

"We strongly urge Hamas to immediately suspend violence and shooting at innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza -- in both Hamas-held parts of Gaza and those secured by the IDF behind the Yellow Line," US Central Command chief Admiral Brad Cooper said in a statement.

Since the partial withdrawal of Israeli forces in Gaza under the US-backed 20-point ceasefire deal, Hamas has been tightening its grip on ruined cities, launching a crackdown and executing people in the street.

Cooper urged Hamas to seize the "historic opportunity for peace" by "fully standing down, strictly adhering to President Trump's 20-point peace plan, and disarming without delay." "We have conveyed our concerns to the mediators who agreed to work with us to enforce the peace and protect innocent Gaza civilians," Cooper added.

Hamas has published a video on its official channel showing the shooting of eight blindfolded and kneeling suspects, branding them "collaborators and outlaws."

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Members of Madagascar's Army CAPSAT unit run through the streets instructing bystanders to leave the area in Antananarivo on Tuesday. AFP

Taking position of president, says Madagascar's coup leader

▸ Madagascar's military coup leader said Wednesday that he is "taking the position of president", AP/PTI reports from Antananarivo (Madagascar).

Col Michael Randrianirina, who led a rebellion by soldiers that ousted President Andry Rajoelina, said he expects to be sworn in as the Indian Ocean country's new leader in the next few days. Randrianirina announced Tuesday that the armed forces were taking power in Madagascar, capping weeks of protests against Rajoelina and his government by mainly youth groups. He said he is taking the role as head of state after the country's High Constitutional Court invited him to do so in the absence of Rajoelina, who fled Madagascar following the uprising. "There must be an oath-taking" to make his position official, Randrianirina said. The protests reached a turning point on Saturday when Randrianirina and soldiers from his elite CAPSAT military unit rebelled against Rajoelina and joined demonstrations calling for the president to step down, forcing Rajoelina to flee.

CO2 levels hit record high

▸ The UN weather agency said Wednesday that carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere hit new record highs last year, and heat trapped by such greenhouse gases is "turbo-charging" the Earth's climate and causing more extreme weather, AP/PTI reports from Geneva.

The World Meteorological Organisation said in its latest bulletin on greenhouse gases that C02 growth rates have now tripled since the 1960s, and emissions from human activities and more wildfires helped fan a "vicious climate cycle."

The Geneva-based agency said the increase of the global average concentration of carbon dioxide from 2023 to 2024 amounted to the highest annual level of any one-year span since measurements began in 1957.

Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with his Syrian counterpart Ahmed al-Sharaa at the Kremlin in Moscow on Wednesday. REUTERS

EU fines top fashion brands

▸ The European Commission has fined luxury fashion houses Gucci, Chloé and Loewe over 157 million euros for anti-competitive practices restricting independent retailers' ability to set prices for their luxury goods, AP/PTI reports from Milan.

The Commission said the companies' fixing of resale prices breached the bloc's competition rules, harmed consumers and would not be accepted. "The decision sends a strong signal to the fashion industry and beyond that we will not tolerate this kind of practice in Europe, and that fair competition and consumer protection apply to everyone, equally, Commission vice president Teresa Ribera said. The commission said that the three brands restricted the ability of independent retailers to set their own prices for high-end apparel, leather goods, footwear and accessories sold both online and in physical stores.

Russia to import Indian banana

▸ Russia could import up to half a million metric tonnes of bananas from India, PTI reports from Moscow.

Rosselkhoznadzor —phytosanitary watchdog which gives the approval for import of agro-products from foreign countries — on Wednesday said India may increase its banana supplies to the Russian market. Russia is ready to accept approximately 300,000-500,000 metric tonnes of Indian bananas per year, it said. According to Rosselkhoznadzor, its head Sergei Dankvert held talks with representatives of the Indian Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The parties discussed opportunities to increase mutual supplies of agricultural products, including shrimp and fish.

Cast members Colin Farrell and Fala Chen attend the premiere of "Ballad of a Small Player" at The Egyptian Theatre in Los Angeles on Tuesday. REUTERS

US warns China over rare earth export expansion

We are ready for fulsome group response with our allies: Bessent

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

Top US officials on Wednesday criticised China's major expansion of rare earth export controls as a threat to global supply chains, but said Beijing could still change course and avoid steps by Washington to decouple from the world's second-largest economy.

US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer told a press conference that China's new export restrictions were a "global supply-chain power grab" and that the US and its allies would not accept the measures.

Greer noted that China has not yet implemented the revised regulatory system for rare earths and could still reverse course, just as the US has not applied a retaliatory 100% increase in tariffs on Chinese imports. "These are drafted, or in draft, so it's quite real, but our expectation is that they won't implement this and that we'll be able to return to the situation we had a week ago, with the tariff levels we agreed and the flow of rare earths that we agreed to," Greer said.

The two countries appeared poised for an all-out trade war late last week after China announced the rare earth measures on Thursday. "We're going to be speaking with our European allies, with Australia, with Canada, with India and the Asian democracies," Bessent said on Wednesday. "And we're going to have a fulsome group response to this because bureaucrats in China cannot manage the supply chain or the manufacturing process for the rest of the world," he added.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent (left) and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer during a "Game Plan for US Investment" event in Washington DC on Wednesday. AFP

US expects support from India, others

Amid escalating trade tensions with China, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has said that Washington expects strong support from India and other allied nations, PTI reports from Washington. "We have already been in touch with the allies...I expect that we will get substantial global support from the Europeans, from the Indians, from the democracies in Asia," Bessent said.

Nayara Energy on UK's sanctions list

LONDON, PTI

The UK government on Wednesday announced 90 new sanctions targeting Russia's oil giants and Indian petroleum company Nayara Energy Limited, which it said had imported billions of dollars' worth of Russian crude in 2024.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said the coordinated action with the UK Treasury will strike at the heart of Russian President Vladimir Putin's war funding, targeting companies to cut off oil revenues reaching the Kremlin.

It claimed the move will help take Russian oil "off the market" and choke off energy revenues that flow into Putin's "war chest" in the conflict with Ukraine.

"Today's action demonstrates the government's determination to cut off Putin's revenue streams – targeting Russian companies and their global enablers," the FCDO said.

"Four oil terminals in China, 44 tankers in the 'shadow fleet' transporting Russian oil, and Nayara Energy Limited – which imported 100 million barrels of Russian crude worth over USD 5 billion in 2024 alone – have all been hit by this latest wave of sanctions," it stated.

Earlier, Nayara Energy had been hit by European Union (EU) sanctions, a move it strongly condemned.

"Nayara Energy operates in full compliance with the laws and regulations of India. As an Indian company, we are deeply committed to supporting the nation's energy security and fostering economic growth," Nayara Energy said in a media statement at the time.

Donor cuts pushing millions more into hunger: UN

GENEVA, AP/PTI: The United Nations' food aid agency said Wednesday that severe funding cuts from its top donors are hurting its operations in six countries and warned that nearly 14 million people could be forced into emergency levels of hunger.

The World Food Programme, traditionally the UN's most-funded agency, said in a new report that its funding this year "has never been more challenged" — largely due to slashed outlays from the US under the Trump administration and other leading Western donors.

It warned that 13.7 million of its food aid recipients could be forced into emergency levels of hunger as funding is cut. The countries facing "major disruptions" are Afghanistan, Congo, Haiti, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, it said.

Pakistan Army accuses India of 'Bollywood-style scriptwriting'

ISLAMABAD, PTI: The Pakistan Army on Wednesday alleged that India is attempting to "mould" history by "inventing outlandish, Bollywood-style scripts".

The statement came a day after the Indian Army's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO), Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, said that Pakistan is understood to have lost over 100 military personnel along the Line of Control during Operation Sindoor, citing a list of awards conferred posthumously by Pakistan's military.

In a statement, the Pakistan Army said it found it "saddening" that the military leadership of a nuclear-armed country was issuing "irresponsible statements". "The Indian leadership is attempting to mould history to its liking by inventing outlandish, Bollywood-style scripts," the statement said.

"Unnecessary chest-thumping and unwarranted statements might initiate a cycle of jingoism and lead to serious consequences for peace and stability in South Asia," it added. "The Indian Armed Forces and its political masters must realise that Pakistan's people and its armed forces are fully capable and committed to defending every inch of our territory with full resolve. Every act of aggression will be met with a swift, resolute, and intense response that will be remembered by posterity," it warned.

Lt Gen Ghai had earlier said Pakistan lost at least 12 aircraft during the conflict in May, echoing details shared by Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh a few days ago.

Chinese airlines protest US plan to ban flights over Russian airspace

HONG KONG, AP/PTI: China's biggest state-owned air carriers have hit back at a US proposal to bar them from flying over Russia when travelling to or from the US.

The US side has said such flights give Chinese airlines an unfair cost advantage over American carriers, which cannot cross through Russian airspace.

Moscow closed Russian airspace to US air carriers and most European airlines in 2022 in response to Western sanctions for Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Air China, China Eastern and China Southern are among six Chinese airlines filing complaints over the order proposed last week to prohibit such flights by Chinese carriers.

Hyundai Motor doubles down on India with Rs 45,000 crore investment

Hyundai to invest **$5 billion** in India by **2030**

Hyundai entered Indian car market in **1996**

The investment to generate **$11 billion** of revenue in India by 2030

Hyundai India's shares rose nearly 3% after the news

"The money will help to increase Hyundai India's annual production by about a third to **1.1 million** vehicles by 2030, introduce **26 cars** including its first hybrid vehicle tailored for India, and launch its luxury car brand Genesis in the country.

JOSE MUNOZ, CEO, Hyundai Motor

Tarun Garg, MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India Ltd Tarun Garg's strategic focus will be on four key pillars - Future strategy focussed, market & people centered, customer orientation and make in India

He has more than 32 years of industry experience

Led the company to its IPO in 2024

He led the company to its highest-ever sales for three consecutive years

He championed digital transformation through MyHyundai app for customers, HSMART for dealers He will take charge from January 1, 2026

To launch 26 cars, including first hybrid and locally made EV

REUTERS

Hyundai Motor will invest $5 billion (Rs 45,000 crore) to expand its manufacturing and research operations in India, the South Korean automaker said on Wednesday, putting the world's third-largest car market at the heart of its growth strategy.

The money will help to increase Hyundai India's annual production by about a third to 1.1 million vehicles by 2030, introduce 26 cars including its first hybrid vehicle tailored for India, and launch its luxury car brand Genesis in the country, Hyundai Motor CEO Jose Munoz told reporters.

The group expects the investment to generate $11 billion of revenue in India by 2030, making it Hyundai's second-largest market behind the U.S., Munoz said during the first investor day for its Indian unit.

Battle to recapture market share

"India is a strategic priority in Hyundai's global growth vision. India isn't just important to Hyundai's global strategy. India is Hyundai's global strategy," Munoz said during the virtual presentation.

Hyundai India's shares rose nearly 3% after the news. During nearly three decades in India, Hyundai had invested a total of $5 billion in the country.

The new outlay comes as the group is under pressure in its major US market from President Donald Trump's tariffs, while also facing scrutiny over worker deaths and labour practices at its factory in Georgia.

Hyundai, which entered India in 1996, was until recently the country's second-largest carmaker, after Maruti Suzuki , with bestsellers such as the Creta and Venue SUVs.

But its market share has slipped in recent months to below 14% from a peak of about 18% as it faces increased competition from Indian rivals such as Mahindra & Mahindra, which has stepped into the second spot so far this fiscal year. By pumping fresh money into the market, Hyundai is targeting more than 15% share of the domestic market. On Tuesday, Hyundai Motor India named insider Tarun Garg as the first Indian chief executive of the company, succeeding Unsoo Kim.

IN BRIEF

TVS Motor forays into adventure bike category

BENGALURU, DHNS: TVS Motor Company, on Wednesday, forayed into the adventure motorcycle category with the launch of its new 300cc motorcycle, TVS Apache RTX. The new motorcycle will be manufactured at its Mysuru factory and sold in both domestic and export markets.

TVS Apache RTX is powered by 299.1cc single-cylinder, liquid-cooled, 4-stroke DOHC engine that produces 36 PS of power at 9,000 rpm and 28.5 Nm of torque at 7,000 rpm. It comes with a 6-speed manual transmission fuel injection, assist and slipper clutch mated to steel trellis frame and mono-volume body design.

TVS Apache RTX

MPC defers rate cut despite room for reduction

'Heightened uncertainty' overrode the benign inflation

MUMBAI, PTI

Reserve Bank Governor Sanjay Malhotra and other members of the monetary policy committee (MPC) saw room for an interest rate cut earlier this month, but left the decision for an opportune time, the MPC meeting minutes released on Wednesday showed.

The next meeting of the rate-setting panel, MPC, is scheduled for December 3 to 5.

All six members of the MPC had unanimously decided to retain the short-term lending rate (repo) at 5.5% because of global uncertainty, though domestic inflation was benign.

During the meeting, Malhotra said the benign outlook for headline and core inflation as a result of the downward revision of projections opens up policy space to further support growth.

"...even though there is a policy space to further cut the policy rate, I feel this is not the opportune time for the same, as it will not have the desirable impact.

"Therefore, I vote to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.50 per cent. The intent of policy, nevertheless, is to continue to facilitate growth-enabling conditions," he said, according to the minutes of the MPC meeting, which concluded on October 1.

MPC member and RBI Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta opined that with the implementation of the rationalised GST rates since September 22, 2025, the inflation outlook appears to be more benign.

"The described growth-inflation mix, particularly slower growth in H2 and a benign inflation rate, has potentially opened some space for lowering the policy rates further; yet it is difficult for me to vote for a rate cut at this juncture," she said.

India's gold import doubles in Sept on festive demands, trade tensions

Trade deficit hits 13-month high of $32.15 billion

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's gold imports more than doubled to $9.6 billion in September even though prices hit record high as investors turn to safer havens amid growing global economic uncertainties, official data showed on Wednesday.

Strong festive demands also partly boosted the surge in imports of the precious yellow metal. As per the Commerce and Industry Ministry data, India imported 102 tonnes of gold in September 2025, which is 65% higher than 61 tonnes in the same month last year.

The value of gold imports surged from $4.6 billion in September 2024 to $9.6 billion in September 2025, a growth of 108%, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal told reporters.

Agrawal said the surge in import bill was also due to the record high gold price in the international markets. In August the value of gold imports stood at $5.14 billion. So the September figure is nearly double on a month-on-month basis also.

Gold prices have spiked in the recent months after the US imposed high tariffs on several countries leading to trade tensions and uncertainties in the global economy. Gold price hit a record high of Rs 1.27 lakh per 10 grams at Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) on Wednesday.

Gold price has surged by over 57% since the beginning of the year due to geopolitical and economic uncertainties. Silver prices have also hit record highs.

The jump in imports of gold, silver, fertilizers and electronics pushed India's trade deficit to a 13-month high of $32.15 billion in September.

"This has been a turbulent year for trade. But the good news is that in all this turbulence, if we look at the data, in H1 (April to September 2025), we have achieved a total export of $413.30 billion, 4.45% higher year-on-year," Agrawal said.

Merchandise exports in September rose to $36.38 billion from $34.08 billion recorded in the same month last year, registering a growth of 6.74%. While imports increased at a much sharper pace. It rose from $58.74 billion in September 2024 to $68.53 billion in September 2025, recording a growth of 16.6%.

Cumulative merchandise trade deficit in April-September 2025 rose to $154.98 billion from $145.18 billion recorded in the corresponding period of the last year.

Overall exports, including both goods and services, reached $67.20 billion in September 2025, up slightly from $66.68 billion in the same month last year, whereas overall imports climbed to $83.82 billion from $75.28 billion.

"While the trade gap remains a concern, the resilience of the services sector continues to offer balance and stability," said S C Ralhan, President, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

Ralhan underlined that growth in exports, despite formidable global headwinds, underscores the commendable efforts of Indian exporters and their growing competitiveness.

"At the same time, the increase in imports calls for a renewed focus on building domestic manufacturing capabilities in critical sectors such as electronics, machinery, and intermediate goods," he added.

'Safe-haven' Gold imports surge

61 tonnes → 102 tonnes (67%)

$4.6 billion → $9.6 billions (108%)

57% surge in gold price year-to-date

September 2024 ■ September 2025

Gold price at record high of **Rs 1.27 lakh** per 10 grams

India's trade deficit rises to 13-month high of **$32.15 billion** in September

Global uncertainties, trade tension boost safe-haven demands

Gold, silver, fertilizers, electronics key drivers of India's import surge

Rupee climbs the most in four months on firm RBI intervention

MUMBAI, REUTERS: The rupee soared to post its best one-day gain in nearly four months on Wednesday, powered by firm central bank intervention supporting the currency while traders also cited unwinding of bearish wagers on the currency.

The rupee closed at 88.0750 against the US dollar, up 0.8% on the day, its strongest performance since June 25.

The local unit had touched a peak of 87.9250 in early trading after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stepped in forcefully to curb pressure on the rupee across both the local spot and non-deliverable forwards market, traders said.

Worries over the drag from steep US trade tariffs, patchy foreign portfolio flows and a surge in precious metal prices had pinned the rupee close to its all-time low of 88.80 over the last two weeks but traders reckon that the pressure could ease following RBI's intervention.

"The market was a bit unfair in testing the central bank's patience at these levels because nothing in the underlying balance of payments had changed to warrant this kind of weakening so far," said Dhiraj Nim, an economist and FX strategist at ANZ.

The rupee had declined 2.8% over the year so far while India's balance of payments position stood at a surplus of $4.5 billion in the April-June quarter, compared with a surplus of $5.2 billion a year earlier.

Coinbase ups stake in CoinDCX at $2.45 bn valuation

BENGALURU, DHNS

US cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase has raised its investment in CoinDCX, valuing the crypto exchange at $2.45 billion post-money. This investment round is an extension of the last fundraising. The fresh capital will be used to fuel product innovation, drive user growth and expand into new geographies.

Founded in 2018, CoinDCX, which is backed by investors such as Polychain, Bain Capital, Jump Capital, Pantera and Steadview, among others, has over 2 crore users.

"India and the Middle East are among the most dynamic regions for crypto adoption and innovation. We're excited to support CoinDCX's continued growth and look forward to expanding our partnership in the months ahead," said Shan Aggarwal, Chief Business Officer, Coinbase.

CoinDCX employs over 400 employees, and in 2024 the exchange made its international foray with the acquisition of Dubai-based BitOasis, a virtual assets broker-dealer in the MENA region.

"Coinbase has been an investor in CoinDCX since 2020. Its decision to infuse more capital is a strong validation of CoinDCX's long-term vision and responsible growth strategy. Coinbase is globally recognised for building compliant-first crypto businesses. We see strong synergies with Coinbase in building a compliant and regulatory-friendly crypto ecosystem in India, MENA and beyond," said Sumit Gupta, Co-founder, CoinDCX.

In July, CoinDCX had a security breach of about $44 million.

TECH TREND

'AI remains a top investment priority for CEOs in India'

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Artificial Intelligence (AI) remains a top investment priority for Indian CEOs, as 57% of CEOs are planning to allocate 10–20% of their budgets to AI over the next one year. About 73% CEOs expect returns on AI investments within one to three years, and 86% believe their boards are well-equipped to navigate advanced technology adoption, including leveraging data and AI for sustainable growth, according to KPMG 2025 India CEO Outlook of 125 business leaders across industries and sectors.

The report revealed that confidence among CEOs in India in their own companies' growth prospects has climbed to 83%, up from 68% in 2024.

Yezdi Nagporewalla, CEO, KPMG in India, said that in an era of global uncertainty, CEOs in India are demonstrating remarkable resilience and a future-focused mindset. "By embracing emerging technologies like AI, prioritising cybersecurity, and advancing ESG goals, they are confident of navigating complexity. At the same time, a renewed focus on talent strategy, redesigning roles, embedding innovation, and fostering continuous learning is helping organisations stay competitive and ready for what lies ahead," he added.

The report also highlighted that 91% of Indian CEOs advocate for investing in skill development and lifelong learning to safeguard future talent. About 74% of CEOs recognise that AI workforce readiness will significantly influence organisational prosperity over the next three years. However, 68% agree that competition for AI talent could constrain future growth.

Cisco, too, in its AI Readiness Index, released on Wednesday, pointed out that 91% of organisations in India plan to deploy AI agents, and nearly 41% expect them to work alongside employees within a year. But for the majority of these companies, AI agents are exposing weak foundations — systems that can barely handle reactive, task-based AI, let alone AI systems that act autonomously, and learn continuously. About 25% of respondents said their networks can't scale for complexity or data volume, and just 20% describe their networks as flexible or adaptable.

It said a small but consistent group of companies — the 'Pacesetters,' about 17% of organisations surveyed in India, and 13% globally, for the last three years — outperform their peers across every measure of AI value.

Nearly all pacesetters (99%) have a defined AI roadmap (67% in India), and 91% (45% in India) have a change-management plan.

The report also introduces a new concept — AI infrastructure debt — the modern evolution of technical and digital debt that once held back digital transformation.

"It's the silent accumulation of compromises, deferred upgrades, and underfunded architecture that erodes the value of AI over time. Some early warning signs are already visible: 41% expect workloads to rise by over 30% within three years, 64% struggle to centralise data, only 26% have robust GPU capacity, and just over one in three can detect or prevent AI-specific threats," the study mentioned.

These early warning signs point to a gap between AI ambition and operational readiness. "But when the systems that power AI aren't secure, the debt can increase risk. Pacesetters aren't immune, but their foresight, governance, and investment discipline help position them to avoid problems compounding into more costly risks," it added.

InoxWind to set up new factory in Kushtagi

BENGALURU, DHNS: InoxWind, a pioneer in manufacturing large blades and towers for the wind energy sector, is planning to set up a new facility at the Kyadigoppa Industrial Area in Kushtagi taluk with an investment of Rs 400 crore, and create 1,000 direct jobs, Large and Medium Industries Minister M B Patil, announced on Wednesday.

After discussing the proposed investment plan with Santosh Khairnar, President (Corporate Strategies) of InoxWind, Patil said, "Initially, the company had shown interest in setting up its plant in Vijayapura district. The company's Executive Director, Devansh Jain, had written to me requesting the allocation of 70 acres of land adjacent to the National Highway. He had explained that locating the unit in an area lacking wide, good-quality roads would not be viable for transporting massive blades and towers."

Consequently, land under the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has been allocated for the project in Kushtagi taluk of Koppal district. Of the total Rs 400 crore investment, Rs 300 crore will be invested in the first phase and Rs 100 crore in the second, Patil explained.

The Minister assured that the state government would extend full support and provide incentives to InoxWind under the new Industrial Policy. The proposed unit will manufacture wind turbine towers, including blades and pillars.

Noman Ali (centre) took a 10-wicket haul to spin Pakistan to 93-run win against South Africa. AFP

Noman, Shaheen floor South Africa

LAHORE, AFP: Left-arm spinner Noman Ali was South Africa's chief tormentor as Pakistan won a gripping first Test by 93 runs in Lahore on Wednesday.

Set a daunting 277-run target for victory, the visitors and World Test champions were bowled out for 183 on day four. Man of the match Noman finished with 4-79 and 10-191 in the match for his third haul of ten wickets or more in Tests.

With the weary Gaddafi Stadium pitch taking sharp turn and low bounce, the 39-year-old Noman exploited the conditions well despite a stubborn 73-run stand between Dewald Brevis and Ryan Rickelton in the morning.

In all, spinners from both sides took 34 wickets, with just six going to fast bowlers.

Brief scores: Pakistan: 378 all out & 167 all out bt South Africa: 269 all out & (O/n: 51/2): 183 all out in 60.5 overs (Ryan Rickelton 45, Dewald Brevis 54; Noman Ali 4-79, Sajid Khan 2-38, Shaheen Afridi 4-33). **Result:** Pakistan won by 93 runs. **Series:** Pakistan lead the two-match series 1-0. **PoM:** Noman Ali

Meropi tipped for day's plum

MYSURU SELECTIONS

Meropi, from the stables of Aashay Doctor and to be ridden by Trevor Patel, is fancied to win the Mysore Dasara Sprint Championship, the feature event of the Mysore races on Thursday. First race starts at 2.00 pm.

1. Lokapavani Plate - 1400M: She Rules 1, Turkoman 2, Southernarixtocrat 3.
2. Original Vel Racing Trophy (Div-II) - 1400M: Serai 1, Sea Of Adventure 2, Sheeba 3.
3. Urs Kar Trophy (Div-I) - 1400M: True Punch 1, Little Minister 2, Sir Calculus 3.
4. HH Sri Chamaraja Wadiyar Memorial Cup - 1400M: My Life My Rules 1, Sienna Princess 2, Isabelle 3.
5. Mysore Dasara Sprint Championship - 1200M: Meropi 1, Imperial Blue 2. **A;dgate** 3.
6. Original Vel Racing Troph (Div-I) - 1200M: O Manchali 1, Court Jester 3, Natural Tornado 3.
7. Urs Kar Trophy (Div-II) - 1400M: Mystikos 1, Silicon Star 2, N R I Victory 3.
Day's best: Mystikos. **Jackpot**: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **I treble**: 2, 3 & 4. **II treble**: 5, 6 & 7.

GOLF DP WORLD TOUR INDIA CHAMPIONSHIP

Led by Lahiri, home boys hope to spring a surprise

McIlroy headlines impressive field

> India is a country that I've wanted to travel to for a long time. It's a very vibrant place. Everyone that I've met has been wonderful and welcoming.
> **Rory McIlroy**

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy, the world No. 2, will be the cynosure at the DP World India Championship, beginning in New Delhi on Thursday. REUTERS FILE PHOTO

HITA PRAKASH
NEW DELHI, DHNS

From whispers to raised eye brows to finally a reality: "Rory has come to India!"

The five-time Major champion and world No. 2 golfer Rory McIlroy is by miles the biggest draw of the inaugural DP World Tour India Championship that is all set to get underway at the decked up Delhi Golf Club here from Thursday.

What adds to the glitter is the presence of other top names joining the reigning Masters champion at the biggest-ever international golf event hosted in the country. From the 2025 PGA Tour FedEx Cup winner Tommy Fleetwood to the 2019 The Open Championship winner Shane Lowry, and former world No. 1 and two-time Ryder Cup-winning captain Luke Donald to 2023 PGA Tour FedEx Cup winner Viktor Hovland, the star-studded field has already created an unprecedented buzz among the Indian golfing community.

Expect fans to swarm the iconic DGC to get a ringside view of these players, who were also part of the European team which scored a dramatic Ryder Cup triumph against USA a fortnight ago. For the rest among the 138 competitors, teeing up to tackle the 6912-yard par 72 set-up, the hope is to grab some attention through their game. Of that lot, USA duo - Ben Griffin, with two PGA Tour titles this year, and Brian Harman, the Open Championship 2023 winner - look driven enough to spoil another European party on Indian soil.

Anirban Lahiri

Clearly, all the attention might seem inclined towards the international stars. But not placing a bet on some of the 26 Indian golfers in the fray this week could be naive. Equipped with superior knowledge of the tricky 18-hole terrain, home advantage is truly a boon at the DGC. Leading the charge for the hosts will be Anirban Lahiri, former PGA Tour player who now competes on LIV Golf, and Shubhankar Sharma, a regular at the DP World Tour (previously European Tour) along with PGTI Order of Merit leader this season Yuvraj Sandhu.

While the players, international or Indian, appear to be soaking in the golfing atmosphere here, the hero and the anti-hero of any event hosted at the DGC is DGC itself. Shubhankar explained the 'narrow' 90-year-old course, which makes or breaks a golfer, the best.

"See, at the end of the day, the fairway size is actually the same. It's the bushes that make it look smaller. If you visualise without the rough, most of the players will be hitting fairways all the time. It's the intimidation factor that plays a part after looking at the bushes and it towering over you," said the 29-year-old.

McIlroy, Fleetwood, Lowry, Hovland and most others, who have been up and about on the course since Tuesday, have decided to mostly allow the drivers to go into a snooze mode.

As the pre-tournament commotion settles in, an exciting competition between the complexities of a course and the abilities of an individual is all set to get cracking. Now, whose name will echo across the hallowed course on Sunday afternoon?

Welcome has been incredible: McIlroy

HITA PRAKASH
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Love him or hate him, either way, it was hard not to feel for Rory McIlroy when he finally got to wear the Green jacket after winning the Masters this year on his 17th attempt.

Agree or disagree with him, it was tough not to empathise with McIlroy after he was subjected to unruly behaviour from a raucous crowd at the recent Ryder Cup in New York.

"Obviously, it's been two weeks and I've been following the sort of narrative coming out of the Ryder Cup just like everyone else," said the 36-year-old Northern Irishman here on Wednesday.

"The unfortunate thing is people are remembering the week for the wrong reason. I would like to shift the narrative and focus on how good the European team was and how proud I was to be part of that team to win an away Ryder Cup," explained McIlroy about the drama that unfolded at the Bethpage Black Golf Course in the USA.

That episode is well tucked away in the past as the five-time Major winner is busy experiencing abundant admiration, love and attention being showered on him at the Delhi Golf Club from the moment he landed in the capital on Monday.

One of the best golfers to have ever played the sport will be up against one of the most intimidating golf courses in the country.

Three-member NSB in draft rules for sports act

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Sports Ministry on Wednesday unveiled its planned framework for the National Sports Governance Act, proposing a three-member National Sports Board (NSB) for granting affiliation to federations and a tiered eligibility criteria for Sportspersons of Merit (SOM) seeking inclusion in the administrative set-up.

The ministry has posted the draft rules for the NSB, the National Sports Tribunal (NST) and the National Sports Election Panel (NSEP) on its website and sought public feedback within the next 30 days.

The NSB, which is the most significant aspect of the Act that was passed by the Parliament in August, will have the power to not just grant affiliation to the National Sports Federations (NSFs) but also monitor their financial operations and penalise them for any wrongdoing.

It would be mandatory for NSFs to take NSB affiliation to be eligible for government funding.

Tiered criteria

The rules lay down a tiered criteria for athletes, who are being encouraged to take up administration as per the provisions of the act. It is mandatory for every federation's general Body to have four or higher number of Sportspersons of Merit, elected or nominated.

The interested athletes should be retired from their sport at least one year before applying for the position in administration and only those who have won an Olympic medal or participated in at least one Olympics eligible for inclusion in National Olympic Committee.

Zoravar fifth after day one of qualification, women disappoint

ATHENS, PTI: India's trap shooting stalwart Zoravar Sandhu **(in pic)** produced a steady performance to end day one of qualification placed fifth in the ISSF World Championships Shotgun, here on Wednesday.

The 48-year-old Zoravar shot rounds of 24 and 25 to aggregate 49, in a strong field of 133 athletes at the Malakasa Shooting Range.

As many as 13 other shooters aggregated 49 on the opening day of qualification but Zoravar was placed fifth because of better countback score.

Croatia's Anton Glasnovic and Toufik El Hamri of Morocco are leading the qualification with perfect 50 scores.

Vivaan Kapoor and Bhowneesh Mendiratta hit perfect 25s in the second round.

Chess world tour launched

NEW DELHI, PTI

The organisers of Norway Chess on Wednesday announced the launch of the Chess World Championship Tour, which will consist of four events each year and crown a combined champion across three disciplines — Fast Classic, Rapid, and Blitz chess.

Norway Chess CEO Kjell Madland said that a long-term agreement has been signed with the international chess federation (FIDE) for the tournament, which will be an annual affair and begin in 2027.

"We expect this (tournament), to become one of the most prestigious events in the entire chess calendar," said Madland. He said that the World Championships, which is held in the Classical format, and the newly-conceptualised Chess World Championship Tour will complement each other as it had been officially approved by FIDE.

"The tour will consist of four tournaments per year in various global cities with a minimum USD 2.7 million annual prize pool across the Tour (USD 750k per event for the first three events; USD 450k for the Finals, plus performance bonuses," Madland added. "A pilot tournament is planned for the fall of 2026, with the first full championship season beginning in 2027."

The status agreement between Norway Chess and FIDE was signed in early October.

Arkady Dvorkovich showed support for the initiative.

England secure World Cup berth

Portugal made to wait; SA in finals after 2010; Qatar, Saudi make cut

PARIS, AFP

Harry Kane scored twice as England thrashed Latvia 5-0 on Tuesday to secure qualification for the 2026 World Cup, while Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal were forced to wait to clinch their spot at the finals after being held by Hungary.

Elsewhere, pro-Palestinian demonstrations prefaced Italy's vital win over Israel and Spain took another step towards qualification with a big victory against Bulgaria.

Thomas Tuchel's England brushed aside Latvia in Riga to make it six wins from six in Group K and guarantee top spot before their final two fixtures next month — they have 18 points and an unassailable seven-point lead over second-placed Albania.

All 12 group winners in Europe qualify directly for the World Cup, with the runners-up going on to play-offs.

Portugal were on the brink of punching their ticket as they led Hungary 2-1 in stoppage time in Lisbon, knowing a win would confirm first place in Group F. Attila Szalai headed Hungary in front only for Ronaldo to turn in Nelson Semedo's driven cross to equalise midway through the first half.

Ronaldo then converted a Nuno Mendes cross to give Portugal the lead in first-half stoppage time. However, Hungary snatched a draw when Liverpool's Dominik Szoboszlai finished from close range in injury time.

Qatar, Saudi through

Qatar and Saudi Arabia became the latest teams to book their spots at the World Cup, with each finishing top of their respective groups in the fourth round of Asian qualifying.

Meanwhile, South Africa, Ivory Coast and Senegal all won convincingly on Tuesday to fill the last three automatic places reserved for Africa at the World Cup.

WHO ARE THROUGH

- Host nations: Canada, Mexico, United States
- Africa: Algeria, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia
- Asia: Australia, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Uzbekistan
- Europe: England
- Oceania: New Zealand
- South America: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay

England's Harry Kane (centre) celebrates with team-mates as England defeated Latvia 4-0 to qualify for the World Cup at the Daugava Stadium in Riga on Tuesday. AFP

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE

No: CMC HPT/WS/DMF/2025-26 Dated: 09-10-2025.

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

2022-23 DMF tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the eligible Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in 1) Tender Last Date: 21-10-2025 5.00 PM. 2) Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date: 22-10-2025 5.00 PM. 3) Opening for Financial Bid will be on Date: 23-10-2025, 5.10 PM **Indent No: 1) DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 50020** Estimated Cost Rs in (Lakh) 58.25 (EMD : Rs. 1,45,625.00) any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours.

Sd/-Assistant Executive Engineer, CMC Hosapete **Sd/-Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete.**

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/294

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501

Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372

No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/2025-26/1794 Date: 14.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under Standard tender document under various for 7 works (Indent No: 18120, 18597, 18322, 19113, 14651, 19567, 19569, 19518, 19445, 19839, 11164, 11163, 11162, 10700, 10698) for the Estimated Cost Minimum Rs.8.00 lakhs Maximum 200.00 lakhs Total Rs:496.13 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga as dates below:-

For the work more than Rs.70.00 Laks:-
Date of Pre Bid meeting Date: 21.10.2025: Time: 11.00
Last Date for information any quarries Date: 24.10.2025: Time: 11.00
Last Date for Submitting the tender Date: 27.10.2025: Time: 16.00
Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date: 28.10.2025: Time: 16.01
Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date: 29.10.2025: Time: 16.02

For the work Below Rs. 70.00 Laks:-
Last Date for information any quarries Date: 21.10.2025: Time: 11.00
Last Date for Submitting the tender Date: 23.10.2025: Time: 16.00
Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date: 24.10.2025: Time: 16.01
Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date: 27.10.2025: Time: 16.02
Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.421:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga**

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
KUNDAPURA - 576201, UDUPI DIST
Phone: 08254-230410(O) E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_kundapur@yahoo.co.in
KTMC/HS/SBM 2.0/2025-26 Date :15.10.2025

E-Tender Notification (Short Term)

Town Municipal Council Kundapura – Under Swacch Bharath Mission 2.0, E-tender is invited from eligible contractors registered with the Public Works Department of the Government of Karnataka under the Public Procurement Transparency Act 1999 Rules 2000 on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal as Standard tender document KW4. Interested eligible contractors can participate in the tender at **https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in.** The last date for submission of tender is as per mentioned in KPP Portal. For further details and conditions, the Health Section can be contacted during the working hours of this office except holidays.

Sl No	Work Name and Indent No	Estimate Cost (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD Amount (In Rs)
1	Hiring of Agency for undertaking Bio Mining, Bio Remediation, Material Recovery, Processing, Disposal of Legacy Waste and Reclamation of Land at Land fill Site of TMC Kundapura. **Tender No: DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT48609**	319.37 Lakhs	4,79,055.00

Sd/-, President TMC Kundapura **Sd/-, Chief Officer TMC Kundapura**

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಿಉ/ಕೆಮಸ್ ಎಂಸಿ/469/25–26 ದಿ: 15.10.2025

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department,
Mandya Division, Mandya, Phone: 08232-222363,
email:eerwsmdy@gmail.com
No:EE/RDW&SD/MDY/21-22/JJMTENDER/2025-26/1534
Dated:09-10-2025.

Short Term Tender Notification NO-10/2025-26 (Two Cover System) KPPP PORTAL

On behalf of Governor of karnataka, The E.E, R.D.W & S Division, Mandya invited Short Term tender for Providing FHTCs Works in Mandya Tq in Mandya District (Balance Work) from eligible bidders. Pre-Bid Meeting Dt:21.10.2025 Time:11:00 AM (Place:O/O EE, RDWSD, Mandya), Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids:-23.10.2025 Time:05:00 PM, Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening:-24.10.2025 Time:05:05 PM. Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening:-30-10-2025 Time:11:00 AM. Amount Put to tender Maximum: Rs.75.37 Lakhs. More details can be obtained through e-procurement portal of Govt of Karnataka www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or from this office during working hours. Phone No: 08232-222363.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, R.D.W&S D, Mandya

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಮಸ್ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/501/2025–26

Karnataka State Marketing Communication and Advertising Limited
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprise)
No. 42, MCA House, Millers Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
No:KSMCA/ADMN/AM/65/2025-26 Date:16.10.2025

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tender is invited for **supply of Stationery & Housekeeping materials to KSMCA through e-procurement.** Last date for submission of application **is 31.10.2025.** The tenderers shall download the documents having complete details, terms & conditions from the portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Managing Director

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bids through e-procurement mode for the following works:

No: CEE/Tr(OP)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AEE-4/K-8T3/2025-26/8620-23 Date: 14.10.2025

1) Work Indent No. KPTCL/2025-26/IND0229 for Design, manufacture, testing and supply of 5 no's of Battery charger to Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Hassan:- 2x220V, 300AH with 2 no's of float and 2 no's of float cum boost including control panels, change over arrangement etc., complete as per technical specification along with 2 separate DC Distribution Panels (Indoor) 1 I/C+20 O/G SFU 60A+20 O/G SFU 30A Battery Charger conforming to KPTCL technical specification, F.O.R.D at store/site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading.

No: CEE/Tr(OP)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AE-2/2025-26/8666-70 Date: 14.10.2025

2) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/TZH/MNG/2025-26/Gangmen/01-CALL-2, for Providing 20 no's of Line Maintenance Gangmen Service required (12-Skilled & 8-Unskilled) to TLM Sub-Division, Kavoor of Operations Division, KPTCL, Kavoor & Kemar for a period of one year (12 months).

No: CEE/Tr(OP)Z/HSN/SEE(O)/AE-2/2025-26/8661-65 Date: 14.10.2025

3) Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/TZH/KVR/2025-26/Konaje Combined Package-11 Tender as combined Package for,
(a) Providing 110kV breaker for split bus isolator operation at 110/33/11kV sub-station Konaje. **(b)** Providing 2 numbers of additional 11kV switchgears at 110/33/11kV sub-station Konaje and **(c)** Providing improvements to earthmat at 110/33/11kV sub-station Konaje in Operation Division Kavoor.

The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "tenders" on or after For Sl. No. (1): **16.10.2025 at 11:00 Hrs.** For Sl. No. (2): **17.10.2025 at 17.30 Hrs.** For Sl. No. (3): **17.10.2025 at 12.00 Hrs.** Other details can be obtained from the office off the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer (Elec.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan-573 201. Ph: 08172-231050.**

Niki Prasad. X

Karnataka women on a winning spree

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka women's team stretched their winning run to five as they defeated Odisha by three wickets in their latest BCCI Senior Women's T20 Trophy match at the Madhavrao Scindia Stadium in Gwalior on Wednesday.

Karnataka remain on top with 20 points and are the only unbeaten team in the group and four points ahead of second-placed Chhattisgarh. With two matches left, they are the hot favourites to qualify for the Super Eight stages.

Chasing 116, K Prathyoosha (37) and skipper Niki Prasad (32) forged an important stand of 49 runs for the fourth wicket while rest of the Karnataka batting order crumbled around it.

Brief scores: Odisha: 115/4 in 20 overs (Sarita Meher 34, Sushree Dibyadarshini 46) lt to Karnataka: 118/7 in 19.4 overs (Niki Prasad 32, K Prathyoosha 37; Sangeeta Khadia 2-31).

Ahmedabad gets closer to getting 2030 CWG hosting rights

Executive Board backs India's bid, recommends its name

NEW DELHI, PTI

Ahmedabad was on Wednesday recommended as the proposed host of the 2030 Commonwealth Games by Commonwealth Sport's Executive Board, a decision that is set to pave the way for the big event's return to India after two decades.

A final decision will be taken on November 26 at the body's General Assembly after the recommendation is sent to the full membership of Commonwealth Sport. Getting the Games' hosting rights would also be significant in India's quest to become an Olympic host in 2036, also in Ahmedabad.

India was facing competition from Nigerian city of Abuja in the 2030 bid but Commonwealth Sport has decided to "develop a strategy for supporting and accelerating" the African nation's hosting ambitions for future Games, including consideration for 2034.

"The Executive Board of Commonwealth Sport has today confirmed that it will recommend Amdavad, India, as the proposed host city for the 2030 Centenary Commonwealth Games," stated a press release from Commonwealth Sport.

Donald Rukare. X

"Amdavad (also known as Ahmedabad, in the Indian state of Gujarat), will now be put forward to the full Commonwealth Sport membership, with the final decision taking place at the Commonwealth Sport General Assembly in Glasgow on 26 November," it added.

The recommendation follows a process overseen by the Commonwealth Sport's Evaluation Committee.

It assessed candidate cities for "technical delivery, athlete experience, infrastructure, governance, and alignment with Commonwealth Sport values."

"...both Amdavad, India, and Abuja, Nigeria, submitted compelling proposals that reflect the ambition and potential of the Commonwealth Sport Movement."

India had hosted the Games for the first time back in 2010 in New Delhi.

Interim President of Commonwealth Sport Dr Donald Rukare said the Executive Board found proposals from both India and Nigeria "inspiring" but ultimately chose Ahmedabad for the 2030 event.

"The Executive Board has carefully considered the Evaluation Committee's findings and is recommending Amdavad to our membership...and we now look ahead to the General Assembly in Glasgow where our members will make the final decision," he said.

"The Board were impressed with the vision and ambition of Nigeria's proposal and were united in our commitment to continue working with their team to explore future hosting opportunities. This decision reflects our determination to take the Commonwealth Games to the African continent," he added.

Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha, who is also the head of the Commonwealth Games Association (India), said it would be an "extraordinary honour" for India to host the Centenary Commonwealth Games.

"The Games would not only showcase India's world-class sporting and event capabilities, but also play a meaningful role in our national journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

"We see the 2030 Games as a powerful opportunity to inspire our youth, strengthen international partnerships and contribute to a shared future across the Commonwealth," she stated.

Ahmedabad had recently hosted the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships and the city's sporting infrastructure is also being upgraded to successfully conduct big-ticket multi-sport competitions.

Anvay leads from front as Karnataka score crucial win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka posted a crucial six-wicket win in their latest Elite Group D match of the Vinoo Mankad Trophy as their skipper Anvay Dravid produced a winning knock of 82 not out against Himachal Pradesh in Dehradun on Wednesday.

Following their second consecutive win, Karnataka are now tied at the top with Hyderabad and Chhattisgarh at 12 points each while the latter two are ahead on superior net run rate.

Karnataka will face Chhattisgarh in their last group encounter on October 17 with the aim of finishing among the top two teams at least. The top teams from each group, along with one best-placed second team (based on points and NRR from across five groups) — will directly qualify for the quarterfinals while the remaining four second-placed teams from each remaining elite group will square off in pre-quarters with two of them making the last eight.

On Wednesday, Anvay, who also doubles up as wicketkeeper, was backed by Sidhharth Akhil (75) in the chase of 236 as the duo had a 144-run stand for the fourth wicket.

Brief scores: Himachal Pradesh: 235/5 in 50 overs (Arpit Singh 42, Aditya Kataria 56 n.o., Kabir 31, Sachin Mehta 28, Jayaditya Dogra 25 n.o.; Kuldeep Singh 2-35) lt to Karnataka: 236/4 in 45.5 overs (Anvay Dravid 82 n.o., Siddharth Akhil 75; Naunihaal R 2-28).

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY

Padikkal misses ton, but K'taka marginally ahead

Half-centuries from Nair and Smaran help Agarwal & Co to 295/5 on day 1

BENGALURU, DHNS

Quality half-centuries by Devdutt Padikkal, Karun Nair and Smaran R, backed up by Shreyas Gopal's undefeated 38, powered Karnataka to 295 for 5 on a see-sawing opening day of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group B opener against Saurashtra at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot on Wednesday.

Padikkal (96) and Nair (73) would be disappointed with their dismissals when century beckoned both the batters. Nonetheless, their recovery role at the top and Smaran-Shreyas' rearguard act helped Karnataka stay marginally ahead of the hosts.

With the Rajkot strip offering a bit of assistance for the spinners, Saurashtra's Dharmendrasinh Jadeja made full use of it, finishing the day with 4/100 in 30 overs. He also picked up his 400th first-class wicket.

After calling it right at the toss, Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal opted to bat first, possibly looking to bowl last on the surface, having picked three spinners in Shreyas Gopal, Mohsin Khan and Shikhar Shetty. The two of their trusted pace duo in Vidwath Kaverappa and Vyashak Vijayakumar were not available for selection for different reasons. While Vidwath had to attend an interview for a job, Vyshak was injured.

Karun Nair scored a solid 73 in his first innings back for Karnataka on the first day of the Ranji Trophy opener against Saurashtra. DH FILE PHOTO

Openers Agarwal and Nikin Jose struggled with the ball jagging around in the first 30 minutes of play, with Jaydev Unadkat and Chetan Sakariya operating with the new rock.

The good bowling was rewarded in the tenth over, however, to first-change and left-arm orthodox Jadeja, who drew first blood and sent Agarwal packing for just two.

Saurashtra struck again in the 14th over, as Jose fell to Jadeja, after scoring 12 runs.

Padikkal, after two days on the field against West Indies and having flown overnight to Rajkot, didn't show any signs of fatigue and looked in imperious touch, playing shots all over the park, collecting 11 fours. However, he had to walk back, missing out on a well-deserved hundred. On the other hand, Nair, in his first innings back for Karnataka, scored a handy 73, while stitching a 146-run partnership with Padikkal when Karnataka were struggling at 26/2. Once both batters walked back to the pavilion after bailing out the visitors from a tough situation, Smaran, in just his ninth first-class game, held fort and scored an unbeaten 66.

Shrijith KL's short 15-ball 5-run stay was ended by Yuvrajsinh Dodiya to put Karnataka in a bit of trouble again at 214/5 in the 67th over.

Group B: Brief scores: At Thiruvananthapuram: Maharashtra: 179/7 in 59 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 91, Jalaj Saxena 49; MD Nidheesh 4-42; Nedumankuzhy Basil 2-44) vs Kerala.

At Porvorim: Goa: 291/3 in 86 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 47, Abhinav Tejrana 130 n.o., Lalit Yadav 80 n.o.; Vishu 3-86) vs Chandigarh.

At Indore: Punjab: 232 all out in 84.3 overs (Uday Sharan 75, Naman Dhir 39, Krish Bhagat 39 n.o.; Saransh Jain 6-76) vs Madhya Pradesh: 6/0 in 3 overs.

SCOREBOARD

KARNATAKA (I Innings): SJ Nikin Jose c Gosai b Jadeja 12; Mayank Agarwal c Sakariya b Jadeja 2; Devdutt Padikkal b Jadeja 96; Karun Nair lbw Jadeja 73; Smaran R (batting) 66; Shrijith KL c Desai b Dodiya 5; Shreyas Gopal (batting) 38; Extras (B-1, LB-1, NB-1) 3; **TOTAL (for 5 wkts, 90 overs) 295.**

Fall of wickets: 1-13 (Agarwal), 2-26 (Jose), 3-172 (Nair), 4-195 (Padikkal), 5-214 (Shrijith).

Bowling: Jaydev Unadkat 14-2-36-0, Chetan Sakariya 12-3-21-0, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 30-3-100-4, Chirag Jani 3-1-5-0, Prerak Mankad 3-1-14-0, Yuvrajsinh Dodiya 19-2-79-1, Sammar Gajjar 9-0-38-0.

Kohli, Rohit in early batch of players to leave for Australia

NEW DELHI, PTI: Senior stars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were among the first batch of Indian cricketers who flew off on Wednesday for a three-match ODI series against Australia beginning October 19.

Kohli and Rohit were joined by Test and ODI skipper Shubman Gill, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy, and pacers Arshdeep Singh and Prasidh Krishna along with some members of the support staff.

The group made their way into the Indira Gandhi International Airport in the morning with a handful adoring fans lining up outside the entrance to catch a glimpse of them. Head Coach Gautam Gambhir and some other members of the coaching staff will leave in the evening.

India are due to play three ODIs starting Sunday in Perth followed by Adelaide and Sydney. It will be followed by a five-match T20 International series and the format specialists will leave on October 22 tentatively. The T20 series will begin on October 29. The ODI series has generated significant buzz due to the chatter surrounding the future of Rohit and Kohli, both of whom are now retired from Tests and T20Is.

Rohit Sharma. BCCI

Gambhir, after the 2-0 Test series sweep over the West Indies here on Tuesday, had said that he hoped for the two to have a good outing in the upcoming assignment, while being evasive about their 2027 World Cup prospects.

"Hopefully those two guys can have a successful tour, and more importantly, as a team we can have a successful series," Gambhir said when asked about the future of the two former skippers."

'Last chance to see Rohit, Kohli'

SYDNEY, PTI: Australia captain Pat Cummins **(in pic)** says the ODI series against India starting on Sunday in Perth is special as it might be the "last chance" for fans Down Under to catch a glimpse of superstars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma in this country.

The 32-year-old Cummins would be watching the action unfold from the sidelines due to a back injury.

"Virat and Rohit have been part of almost every Indian side for the last 15 years, so this might be the last chance for the Australian public to see them playing out here," Cummins told 'JioHotstar'.

"They've obviously been champions of the game for India and are always very well supported. Whenever we play them, the crowd gets loud."

The premier pacer said he is disappointed about missing the series that will also feature games in Adelaide and Sydney.

It will be followed by a five-match T20 International series from October 29.

"It's a shame to miss the white-ball series against India. I think the crowds are going to be huge. "

Cummins said he understands the thought process that has gone into taking Starc's T20 retirement call.

Kickstart script narrow win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Second-placed Kickstart FC kept pressure on table toppers FC Bengaluru United with their latest 1-0 victory over Bangalore City in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at BFS here on Wednesday.

Dawn Carlos scored the sole goal of the match in the 17th minute, helping Kickstart (23 points) inch closer to United (26 points) with a game in hand. Bangalore City, meanwhile, remained in 12th place following their defeat.

The remaining two matches on the day saw no results as defending champions FC Agniputhra managed a last-gasp 2-2 draw against FC Real Bengaluru through a stoppage time equaliser by SM Iqbal Hassan (90th+2). The other match between ASC & Centre FC and United Stars FC ended 0-0.

Results: Kickstart FC: 1 (Dawn Carlos 17th) bt Bangalore City FC: 0; ASC & Centre FC: 0 drew with United Stars FC: 0; FC Agniputhra: 2 (Azrfar Noorani 51st, SM Iqbal Hassan 90+2) drew with FC Real Bengaluru: 2 (Ajay Alex Anthony 49th pen, Syed Ahamed 58th).

FC Agniputhra's Maximinus Dangmei (left) and FC Real Bengaluru's Syed Ahmed battle for possession during a Super Division League championship match at BFS in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

IN BRIEF

Solid Railways win 13-2

▸ The South Western Railway of Hubballi thrashed Ballari's Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports 13-2 on Day 3 (Wednesday) of the Hockey Karnataka League Championship at the FMKMC Hockey Arena in Bengaluru, reports DHNS. Pavan Madivalar starred in the victory with five goals.

Results: South Western Railway, Hubballi: 13 (Pavan Madivalar 1st, 19th, 52nd, 54th, 56th, Kumar N 9th, Jayavanth 21st, Faran 26th, Somanna KP 37th, Bharath KR 43rd, Shamanth CS 45th, Sanjeev Kumar 58th, Veeranna G Patil 60th) bt Dept. of Youth Empowerment & Sports, Ballari: 2 (Hampaiah 22nd, 38th); Canara Bank: 3 (Hari Rama LS 11th, Somaiah KP 32nd, Likhith BM 39th) bt Postal: 1 (Ramesh 24th).

India fined for slow over rate

▸ India were on Wednesday fined five per cent of their match fees for maintaining a slow over-rate during their Women's ODI World Cup match against Australia, reports PTI from Visakhapatnam.

India lost the high-scoring contest by three wickets with Australia pulling off a record chase on Sunday in Visakhapatnam.

India lose 2-4 to Australia

▸ The Indian junior men's hockey team suffered its first defeat in the ongoing Sultan of Johor Cup, going down to Australia 2-4 in a pool match on Wednesday, reports PTI from Johor (Malaysia).

Nepal, Oman qualify

▸ Nepal and Oman secured their berths for next year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup after guaranteeing top-three finishes in the Asia/East Asia-Pacific Qualifier ahead of their Super Six clash, reports PTI from Dubai.

With the UAE defeating Samoa and set to face Japan on Thursday, Oman and Nepal's progression to the 2026 event was confirmed irrespective of the result of their remaining Super Six fixture.

Rain halts Pak's march to victory, split points with England

COLOMBO, PTI: Rain deprived Pakistan of what would have been a memorable win against four-time champions England, as the two sides ended up sharing points in an ICC Women's World Cup match here on Wednesday.

Set a revised target of 113 for victory in 31 overs after England had toiled to 133/9 on either side of the first rain interruption, Pakistan were cruising away nicely at 34 without loss in 6.4 overs when rain again came in torrents to force the match to be abandoned.

Earlier, Pakistan captain Fatima Sana came up with an inspired spell to restrict four-time champions England to 133/9.

In perhaps the best performance by the embattled Pakistan side, who have lost all their three games in the tournament so far, they reduced England to 54/5 by the end of the 10th over with Sana (4/27) wreaking havoc with her in-swingers.

She got the dangerous opener Tammy Beaumont (4), Heather Knight (18) and last game's centurion Nat Sciver-Brunt (4) early to take the wind out of England's sails.

Omaima Sohail. PTI

When rain came in torrents, England were struggling at 79/7 in 25 overs. They managed 54 runs in six overs after play resumed.

Charlie Dean (33) was the highest scorer for England, who have so far been on a roll, winning all three league games by big margins.

Brief scores: England: 133/9 in 31 overs (Charlie Dean 33; Fatima Sana 4-27, Sadia Iqbal 2-16) vs Pakistan: 34/0 in 6.4 overs. **Result:** Match abandoned due to rain. **Today's match:** Australia vs Bangladesh

China clinch women's title

BHUBANESWAR, PTI: China once again stood unshakable at the summit of Asian table tennis, completing a commanding 3–0 sweep over Japan in the women's team final of the continental championships here on Wednesday.

The victory not only extended China's extraordinary reign in the sport but also showcased their remarkable depth, adaptability, and poise under pressure — qualities that continue to set them apart at the world stage.

The opening rubber between world No. 2 Wang Manyu and Honoka Hashimoto, ranked 11th, was a microcosm of China's resilience. Hashimoto snatched the first game 12–10 through sharp defensive placements and precise counter-blocks, forcing Wang onto the back foot early. Yet Wang quickly recalibrated, shifting from heavy topspin rallies to flatter, quicker attacks that pinned the Japanese defender out of position.

Young Indian shuttlers shine

GUWAHATI, PTI

Indian shuttlers Tanvi Sharma, Unnati Hooda and Rakshitha Sree Ramraj overcame some anxious moments to advance to the pre-quarterfinals of the BWF World Junior Championships here on Wednesday.

Top seed Tanvi defeated Oei Winarto of Indonesia 15-12, 15-7, Unnati, seeded 8th, beat Alice Wang of USA 15-8, 15-5, and 10th seed Rakshitha recovered from a game down to outwit Singapore's Aaliyah Zakaria 11-15, 15-5, 15-8.

The lower half of the girls' singles draw was thrown open after defending world junior champion Xu Wen Jing of China was knocked out.

Japan's Yuzuno Watanabe, who had won the India Junior International Grand Prix in Pune earlier this year, got the better of the third seed 15-12, 11-15, 15-10 in a match that lasted 50 minutes.

While the girls continued their march towards a possible medal, only Gnana Dattu TT will carry India's hopes in the boy's singles category after overcoming 15th seed Suryaksh Rawat 11-15, 15-6, 15-11 in an all-Indian round of 32 match at the National Centre of Excellence.

Unnati Hooda. BAI MEDIA

The mixed doubles combination of Bhavya Chhabra and Vishakha Toppo, girls' doubles combination of Aanya Bisht and Angel Punera along with Vennala K and Reshika U and boy's doubles combination of Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu also advanced to the next round.

Chhabra and Toppo, the 14th-seeds, had to quell a late fightback from Denmark's Aske Romer and Jasmin Wilis to register a 15-13, 15-11 win.

Satwik-Chirag advance

Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty survived a scare before progressing to the men's doubles second round with a thrilling win over Scotland's Christopher Grimley and Matthew Grimley at the Denmark Open Super 750 tournament in Odense on Wednesday.

Satwik and Chirag, who reached back-to-back finals at the Hong Kong Open and China Masters, rallied from a game down to beat Christopher and Matthew 17-21, 21-11, 21-17 in their opening match. The sixth-seeded Indian pair, who claimed their second World Championships bronze earlier this year in Paris, will next face Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-Huei and Yang Po-Hsuan.

In men's singles, Lakshya Sen made a winning start to his campaign with a hard-fought 10-21, 21-8, 21-18 victory over Ireland's Nhat Nguyen.

Bagan set up third derby

KOLKATA, PTI: Mohun Bagan Super Giant set up a marquee IFA Shield final clash with arch-rivals East Bengal, the third Kolkata derby in less than three months, after defeating United SC 2-0 in a group clash, here on Wednesday.

Bagan went ahead through a Dimitri Petratos strike in the 44th and then forced an own goal in the 49th as the Mariners produced a clinical display.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's World Cup: Australia vs Bangladesh **(3 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com

Bring home the warmth of tradition and the brilliance of innovation with

Shagun

Scan to Explore Exciting Offers
on Select Kitchen Solutions

Offer valid upto 22nd October 2025.

INDIA'S BEST-SELLING EV^ TURNS ONE

40,000+ HAPPY FAMILIES | 30+ AWARDS AND COUNTING

THE LIMITED EDITION
MG WINDSOR EV
INSPIRE

BaaS** RANGE STARTS AT
₹9.99** LAKH
+ BATTERY RENTAL @ ₹3.9**/km

WINDSOR INSPIRE COMES WITH THIS AND MUCH MORE*

ELEGANT DUAL TONE EXTERIORS

SANGRIA RED PREMIUM INTERIORS

R18" (46.2 cm) ALL BLACK ALLOY WHEELS

SKYLIGHT INFINITY VIEW GLASS ROOF*

4K DASHCAM

BOOK NOW ON MGMOTOR.CO.IN OR CALL 1800 100 6464 | @mgmotorin @mgmotorin @mgmotorindialtd @mgmotorindia @mgmotorin

SCAN THE CODE TO BOOK A TEST DRIVE

**Ex-showroom price India for base variant under BaaS unique ownership programme. Product shown is for representation purposes only and may vary from actual product due to print paper quality. Features, accessories and specifications shown may not be standard for all variants. It may vary model wise. *Infinity View Skylight Glass Roof is an optional accessory. In line with our policy of continuous product improvement, JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. reserves the right to discontinue any variant or to alter any specifications, features and designs without prior notice and without any liability. All offers are valid for limited period & subject to availability of stock. Contact your nearest MG dealer for specific details. ^Source - Industry Data for the claim. T&C apply.

KARNATAKA: Belgaum: MG Belgaum (+919686689132) **Bengaluru:** MG Bengaluru Central (+919611600055), MG Bengaluru Chord Road (+919611600055), MG Bengaluru Electronic City (+919611600055), MG Bengaluru JP Nagar (+919611600055), MG Bengaluru Kalyan Nagar (+919611600055), MG Bengaluru Magadi Road (+917204269453) MG Bengaluru Mysore Road (+919611600055), MG Bengaluru ORR (+919611600055) Bengaluru Magadi Road (+919845400183), Bengaluru Yelahanka (+919845400183) **Bijapur :** MG Bijapur (+91 70900 01702) **Davangere:** MG Davangere (+918047493372) **Gulbarga:** MG Gulbarga (+919606020518) **Hassan:** MG Hassan (+917227800880) **Hubli:** MG Hubli (+919364008122) **Hospet:** MG Hospet (+916366481107) **Mangalore:** MG Mangalore (+919770400055) **Mysuru:** MG Mysuru (+917227800880) **Shimoga:** MG Shimoga (+918047493372) **Udupi:** MG Udupi (+919770400055) **Tumkur**: MG Tumkur (+91 9611600055)

Cheil 29128/25